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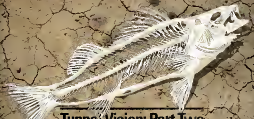


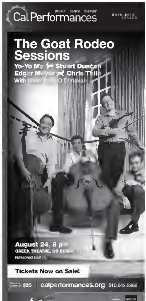
Tunnel Vision: Part Two

RIVERS IN PERIL

How Jerry Brown's plan to build two giant water tunnels, along with legislation in Congress, could ultimately spoil the last of Northern California's wild and scenic rivers.

By Robert Gammon

PAGE 11 : AC Transit Board Member May Have Profited [illegible] [illegible] Young may have [illegible] confidential information [illegible] **PAGE 14 : For the Love of Color** How two color-obsessed CCA graduates turned [illegible] passion for [illegible] a profitable pursuit. **PAGE 28 : Sucking Up Every Bit of Marrow** The [illegible] sandwich shop [illegible] whole-animal cookery [illegible] effect.



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On the Cover *Photo illustration by Brian Kelly*

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
pets

LETTERS

[illegible]

Get a Rescue Rat

I was disappointed to see you list the East Bay Vivarium as *the* source to get pet rats in the East Bay. Although as a local business it is undoubtedly a better choice than a big box pet store, if you look at its website, the only way that they list rats is as feeders for reptiles.

For someone like me, who loves rats and volunteers with a local rat rescue organization, I would much rather see you advocate for a rescue rat than a reptile store rat. There are two local rescues that I know of that clean up after the problems caused by selling live feeder rats. Some of these rats are never eaten by the snakes they are purchased for and then we hear about them either as individual rats that have become a problem for the reptile owner or as mother rats who just gave birth to a whole new unexpected litter. Some of these rats can be rehabilitated and turned into fine pets, and others are so traumatized by the experience of living with a snake that they never are able to mix well with other rats or humans. In those cases, they live out their lives in one of our "sanctuary" homes, well fed and housed, but alone.

I would appreciate it if you could offer these links as an alternative — either of these organizations is far preferable to buying a feeder rat from my perspective. RattieRats.com or NorthStarRescue.org.

Karen Marcroft, Mountain View

The Ferret Fan Club

How you could run the article on unusual pets and omit ferrets is beyond me. I had the pleasure of looking after two of these delightful critters for ten months, and it was an unalloyed joy. Unbearably cute, cuddly, and affectionate, ferrets are, as it's written on the official Dutch ferret website, "easily trained, endlessly entertaining, and often smarter than their owners."

Bruce Harris, Richmond

[illegible]

What's Old Is New

I had to chuckle at your article on raw meat. How about spleen? Back thirty or forty years ago every supermarket in Berkeley sold spleen — not for us, but for our kitties, who loved exercising their jaws on the bloody meat, while owners complained about having to cut it up. With spleen plus a bit of grass from the backyard and a tomato here and there, what cat could be happier and healthier? (All cats love tomatoes: mine could hear a tomato core plopping into her dish from the back of the yard; a friend could never pick his ripening tomatoes before they disappeared — until he discovered his own cat picking them just at the peak of perfection.) Then there was horse meat. That was for us. Horse meat stroganoff was the grad student's standard company dinner. Horse meat was sold in the pet food stores, but no one was fooled. Where did it go?

The idea of packaged or frozen raw pet food sounds bizarre to this old Luddite, but then, things do come 'round again, always in a different form. Nowadays you pay good money for a big dog bone, which used to be free. And the vegetable trimmings and left over pieces of meat that now go into the compost once became the home-cooked dog dinner. With all the farmers markets and urban gardens, I guess pet food will be the last to recover from commercial corruption. (Wonderful pic!)

Jeffrey M. Dickemann, Richmond

[illegible] The Pets Issue 6/5

Leave Fido at Home

Some of us are allergic to dogs or cats and aren't really happy with the idea of dogs being present everywhere. I will note that if it is somehow "reasonable" to take a dog out anywhere and everywhere, it should be considered equally reasonable for someone to take a chicken, a goose, a small donkey, a pony or a boa constrictor anywhere and everywhere.

Nadja Adolf, Richmond

[illegible]

Assange Isn't An Enigma

Why do journalists continue to call Julian Assange "an enigma?" In every interview I've seen where he is not under attack, he is plain-spoken and upfront.

Holly Tannen, Mendocino

[illegible]

Legalize It

The days when politicians can get away with confusing the drug war's tremendous unilateral damage with a comparatively harmless plant are coming to an end.

If the goal of marijuana prohibition is to subsidize violent drug cartels, prohibition is a grand success. The drug war distorts supply and demand dynamics so that big money grows on little trees.

If the goal is to deter use, marijuana prohibition is a catastrophic failure. The United States has double the rate of use as the Netherlands, where marijuana is legally available. The criminalization of Americans who prefer marijuana to martinis has no basis in science. The war on marijuana consumers is a failed cultural inquisition, not an evidence-based public health campaign.

This country can no longer afford to subsidize the prejudices of culture warriors seeking to impose their version of morality on the rest of us. It's time to stop the arrests and instead tax legal marijuana.

Robert Sharpe
Policy Analyst, Common Sense for Drug Policy

[illegible]

A Brave New Berkeley

I didn't think that I'd see in my relatively short lifetime the full transition of higher education from public institution to industry (complete with a "just in time" contingent faculty) and then to automation and outsourcing. Seems like the aspiration is "do more with less," but for most of us it translates to an imperative "do more, get less." I guess when you have a hammer everything looks conveniently like a nail, and we've got MBAs eagerly pounding all over our economy. But hey, at least we can still spend on all those nifty capital projects on campus, right? Then at least we can still look world-class. Table tennis on the green roof, anyone? I can't say my run-ins with online courses have been worth the same as real world classes, but I'm sure they've got all sorts of clever new "tools" to entertain the students.

Tonya Sorrell, Auckland, New Zealand

[illegible]

Incendiary, Indeed

The music is fantastic, the price is a bargain and the total experience of the season's performances is the best kept secret in the Bay Area music scene. Please see at least one performance and you'll be hooked. The New Century Chamber Orchestra is a treasure.

Charles T. Smith, Richmond

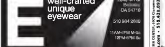
Corrections

Our June 12 music story "Grass Widow's Chameleon" misquoted Lillian Maring regarding the details of her partner's death and the gear she used to record her album. She was not present when he died and she used her own equipment to record. In addition, Raven Mahon's last name was misspelled. Finally, due to an editing error, the article incorrectly stated that Port Townsend, Washington is 120 miles south of where Maring grew up. It is 100 miles north.

Our June 12 event preview, "Camp and Circumstance," mistakenly said Pushing Margins founder Natasha Loewy grew up in North Carolina. She grew up in Louisiana.

Our June 5 pets story "Going Raw" incorrectly stated that Primal does not disclose where it gets its meat from. In fact, the San Francisco company does.

Our May 22 What the Fork column, "The Cottage Food Industry Finds a Home," misspelled Sara Moravej's last name. ●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SEVEN DAYS

BROWN'S ASSAULT ON TRANSPARENCY

The governor and state legislative leaders struck a backroom deal to eviscerate portions of California's public records law. Plus: Big Oil and Gas defeat fracking bills.

By Robert Gammon

When he was mayor of Oakland, Jerry Brown was never a fan of transparency and openness in government. He made a habit of blocking access to public records back then, and his staff destroyed reams of public documents before he left City Hall in late 2006. So it was no surprise that Governor Brown's administration worked behind closed doors in recent weeks with state Democratic leaders to gut key aspects of California's open records law.

As reported by the Bay Area News Group (BANG) last weekend, legislative leaders quietly tucked a last-minute bill that weakens the California Public Records Act into the package of budget legislation for the next fiscal year. The public records bill, as result, was never vetted publicly: it never went through legislative committees like other bills do. "This is the worst assault on the public's right to know I have seen in my eighteen years of doing this," Jim Ewert, general counsel of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, told BANG.

The bill, which Brown is expected to sign into law before June 30, would allow local governments and public agencies to reject public records requests without citing a reason. It also would let local governments ignore the current requirement that they respond to records requests within ten days.

Not surprisingly, the Democratic leaders who worked in secret on the bill that would eviscerate the public's right to know have chosen to remain tight-lipped about their actions. Those legislative leaders include East Bay state Senators Loni Hancock and Mark DeSaulnier. As for the Brown administration, it claims the bill will save the state from having to reimburse local governments millions of dollars a year when they comply with the Public Records Act. It also contends that local governments will continue to fulfill public records requests and pay for the costs themselves, as part of "best practices."

But the lone Bay Area Democratic senator who voted against the legislation, Leland Yee of San Francisco, disputed the administration's claims. "It's not about saving money. It's all about curtailing an open, transparent government that can be held accountable," Yee told BANG. "The only way we're held accountable is when the public has the information to understand what we're doing."

Yee's right, of course. It's also clear that Brown and the Democratic leaders who made this backdoor assault on transparency did so in secret because they knew their bill would never get through an open process at the Capitol. As such, Hancock and DeSaulnier should be ashamed about what they've done and should publicly apologize.

As for Brown, this latest action is just more of the same. In the early part of the last decade, he worked furiously to block access to public records in Oakland, including an investigative report concerning his then top aide, Jacques Barzaghi. Several female employees at City Hall had accused Barzaghi of sexual harassment, but Brown's administration went to court to keep the report on Barzaghi secret. Brown's staffers then destroyed essentially all public records in the mayor's office after he was elected California attorney general — the statewide position in charge of enforcing the Public Records Act.

Money Talks on Fracking

Big Oil and Gas interests have proven once again the power of big campaign contributions in the state legislature — and that money trumps what citizens want. Over the past year, Californians have grown increasingly concerned about fracking, the controversial process of extracting oil and natural gas. Fracking involves shooting toxic chemicals deep into the earth and has raised issues about the pollution of groundwater.

A poll commissioned by USC and the *Los Angeles Times* showed earlier this month that 58 percent of Californians support a moratorium on fracking until it can be proven safe. In addition, a total of 70 percent of California residents said they would either support a moratorium or additional state regulations on fracking.

Yet despite this strong public support, elected officials killed nearly all legislation introduced this year to regulate fracking in California, including a moratorium bill, after oil and natural gas companies flooded Sacramento with campaign donations. The only legislation left is a weak bill that hasn't generated much controversy. According to data compiled by the Berkeley-based MapLight.org, Big Oil and Gas contributed at least $464,000 to political campaigns — outspending fracking opponents by a seven-to-one margin.

The legislators who voted "no" on the moratorium received 31 times as much money from oil and gas interests as they did from fracking opponents. And seventeen legislators — all Democrats — decided not to cast votes on the moratorium bill after pocketing five times more money from oil and gas interests than from fracking foes.

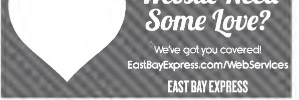
East Bay Assembly members who failed to vote on the moratorium bill included Rob Bonta, Joan Buchanan, Bill Quirk, and Bob Wieckowski. If they and the other thirteen Democrats who didn't cast ballots had voted for the bill, AB 1323, it would have passed the Assembly and would now be in the state Senate.

Quan Staffer Named to School Board

The Oakland school board appointed Anne Campbell Washington — Mayor Jean Quan's chief of staff — to fill a vacant seat on the board, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. Campbell Washington will replace outgoing board member Gary Yee, who is taking over as interim superintendent of schools. ●

Seven Days is culled from our blog of the same name.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com



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LEGALIZATION NATION

HIGH TIMES IN RICHMOND

The Medical Cannabis Cup at the Craneway Pavilion this weekend will feature a concert, industry expo, and a county fair-like weed competition.

By David Downs

A concert by GZA, Raekwon, and Ghostface Killah of the Wu-Tang Clan plus the presence of a huge Ferris wheel are just two indications that the Bay Area's premier cannabis event will reach new highs this weekend. Somewhere between 7,000 and 10,000 people are expected to attend the fourth annual *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup San Francisco at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond on June 22 and 23, and organizers say that despite the ongoing federal crackdown, ticket sales are very strong and the event is bigger and better than ever.

"I am pretty psyched," said Santa Cruz-based Elise McDonough of *High Times*. "This is going to be our strongest headliner ever at the biggest event we've ever had in San Francisco."

Californians legalized medical cannabis in 1996 and while the plant remains federally illegal, cannabis culture is surging nationwide. The two-day celebration combines a concert and industry expo with a county fair-like cannabis competition. Trophies will be awarded Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the best strains, marijuana foods, and hashes, and each category has at least twenty entrants. Regional dispensaries like Harborside Health Center in Oakland are competing for top honors, which can lead to increased sales and notoriety. "I want to win so bad this year," said Rick Pfrommer, general manager of Harborside.

High Times Medical Cannabis Cup San Francisco
June 22-23. Doors open at noon each day. Tickets $40-$50. Craneway Pavilion, Richmond. MedCanCup.com

"What drives the entire event is the contest," McDonough added. "It's a huge deal for people who win. They're ecstatic and it really helps their business. They become a major name."

High Times' elite panel of judges also will provide some much-needed guidance in the quasi-legal world of pot, said the editors of Alameda-based blog Stuff Stoners Like. "We're always looking for the best genetics so we can grow the best WEED," SSL told us in an email. "For decades, we considered *High Times* to be the definitive source of what's good to smoke. So if they lay down the seal of approval on a particular strain, it must be good, right?"

Members of the iconic New York City rap collective Wu-Tang Clan are huge fans of *High Times* magazine, which led to the Saturday night set from GZA, Raekwon, and Ghostface Killah, said McDonough. "We wanted to go for a full Wu reunion, but it just wasn't possible. We got I think the three best guys. This is a special thing they wanted to do because they're big fans of *High Times*."

Fans are stoked. "Them motherf**kers are gonna 'bring da ruckus'," Stuff Stoners Like added.

Another big draw will be the medication area — a fenced-off zone in the Craneway parking lot where adults with a valid state ID and doctor's recommendation for cannabis can consume the drug, which studies prove can treat pain, nausea, muscle spasms, and seizures, among other problems. The smoky area-one group session can be a bit of an eye-opener for newcomers, though. "I wouldn't say people are shocked," said McDonough. "They're more curious. We'll get a lot of passersby who will come over saying, 'What's happening here? How can I get involved?'" The 2013 medication area will bigger than ever before and divided into three sections. Nonmedicated food and drinks will also be for sale. "And don't forget the Ferris wheel!" said McDonough.

High Times has also programmed some excellent panels this year on vital topics like pot laws, the "dabbing" craze, marijuana cooking, and social media. Judging by the increased number of vendors, this year's event hasn't been affected by the nineteen-month-long federal crackdown on marijuana businesses in California. "We do pretty well regardless of what's going," McDonough said. "As more and more people catch onto the cannabis movement, it continues to grow. We're always getting new different vendors. You see a constant revolving door with federal harassment. There's definitely been a lot of turnover, but still the industry is growing strong in California. It really is."

More people are using dabs (concentrated cannabis, such as hash oil) for medical and less-than-medical reasons, and the Cup's dabs panel brings some much-needed expert information to the topic. "It's not right for everybody," McDonough said. "But dabs can be helpful medicine for many patients."

The social media panel should be a hit, too, with web favorites like Oakland video blogger Coral Reefer, members of Stuff Stoners Like, and an administrator from Reddit, which has a dedicated space for stoners called "/r/trees." "It's a do-not-miss event," said Coral Reefer.

Facebook, Twitter, and its ilk are a revolutionary force in American cannabis policy, Stuff Stoners Like argued in an email. "Social media is doing for the cannabis community what it did for the people of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen — enabling us to organize, communicate and raise awareness to enact great change."

"I think it's normalizing cannabis," added McDonough. "Because everybody has got at least two stoner friends who reach out to everybody in the world through social media. Even if you've never smoked pot in your life, chances are you know three, four, five people who you can trust their opinion on it. The news that gets out there, especially these cancer-curing stories that get shared, I think it just really, really gets people to change their opinions."

Final tip: Take transit. *High Times* will run a shuttle from Richmond BART to the Craneway. Bring a valid state ID and doctor's recommendation if you want to consume in the medication area. And McDonough noted, "Stay hydrated, medicate responsibly, pace yourself, and have a great time." ●

Read Legalization Nation breaking news at EastBayExpress.com.

David.Downs@gmail.com

QUICKLY RESHAPING OAKLAND POLITICS

The city plans to redraw council district and school board boundary lines in the next few months in ways that could remake Oakland's political landscape

By J. Douglas Allen-Taylor

The City of Oakland is pushing forward with a plan to redraw city council district and school board boundary lines in a move that has the potential to dramatically reshape politics in the city. And because of a December 31 deadline to complete the redistricting, along with little public notice so far about the proposed plans, citizens may have a limited ability over the next several months to provide adequate input in the process.

The tight time frame is due in part to a decision last summer by City Administrator Deanna Santana that redistricting was not needed. In July 2012, noting that the population difference between the council district with the most constituents and the one with the fewest was far below the 10 percent threshold for mandating redistricting, Santana and Zoning Manager Scott Miller advised Mayor Jean Quan and the council in a memo that federal law and "the results of [city] staff's initial redistricting study would justify not changing the current Council district lines."

But in January of this year, Santana had changed her mind. That month, without the council's knowledge, her office solicited bids for a $40,000 consultant contract to manage redistricting in Oakland. There was no change, however, in the district population numbers between the time the administrator's office declared no redistricting was necessary and when it reversed itself.

Santana's decision to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the redistricting contract without informing the council drew some ire from councilmembers at a meeting last month. District Five Councilwoman Desley Brooks said that she was "a little surprised that the process has gone this far and this is the first time council has the opportunity to have some input." District Three Councilwoman Lynette Gibson McElhaney added that "this is a really significant matter that has impact on the most fundamental of our rights as voters, and to not have that weighed in on in a public forum and have the public engage in that process and not have the council weigh in, it seems to me that's just not something we want to relegate to the administrative process."

Council President Pat Kernighan said she asked for the redistricting decision to come before the council for discussion "after I learned that the RFP had been issued and somebody had been selected" to run the redistricting process "and we had not had any input."

Santana's office hired National Demographics Corporation of Glendale to oversee Oakland's redistricting. Among other clients, the company has run redistricting for the states of Arizona and Washington, for Los Angeles County, and for the cities of Phoenix, Pasadena, Santa Rosa, and Modesto.

Santana's office also sparked controversy for proposing to redraw boundary lines for only three council districts rather than the entire city, stating in the RFP that "the City would prefer to adopt new Council boundaries for Districts 2, 3, and 5 (only) by July 2013." In a March 25 memo, Santana's office added that it had "determined that [the] three Council districts ... were 'beyond five percent of the ... average of all seven districts' and therefore had 'enough population change to warrant redistricting.'" (The Oakland Unified School District ties its board member districts to the council districts, so the school board seats will automatically be redrawn to conform to the new council lines.)

Then last month, Santana's staffers backed away from that three-district realignment proposal, with City Director of Planning and Building Rachel Flynn telling councilmembers that the three districts "were the ones that need the most attention, but that doesn't mean we can't look at other districts as well."

After Mary Bergen of the League of Women Voters told councilmembers that Oakland was "obligated to look at the entire city," the council quickly shot down the idea of limiting the review to three districts.

Councilmembers also threw out the consultant's proposal to limit the number of community information meetings to five. Gatherings will now take place in all seven council districts. The first round of public workshops are currently scheduled for July 11 at City Hall, July 12 in District Seven, and July 13 in District Four. Workshops for the four remaining districts will be held in September. The consultant's own proposed first draft of the new districts is not scheduled to be released until mid-August, with the council slated to complete the process in October and early November.

The most profound change could come as a result of the council's decision to reject a proposal in a city staff memo that the seven council districts "should include a combination of Hill and Flatlands residents (generally defined as the two sides of the I-580 freeway)." Malcolm Amado Uno, political director of the Oakland-based Asian Pacific Environmental Network, who was also speaking also for the organization Oakland Rising, told councilmembers that requiring a hills-flatlands combination in every district "has the potential to contradict" one of the principles staff had outlined in its redistricting proposal — "that districts consist of contiguous territory in a compact form."

In drafting an amended proposal that removed the hills-flatlands requirement, District One Councilman Dan Kalb said that "while taking out the provision does not prevent districts from crossing 580 or from having hills and flatlands combined, but to explicitly call that out as a requirement is unnecessary."

Each of Oakland's seven council and school districts currently contain both low-to-moderate-income and upper-income areas. As a result, dropping that criterion for redistricting could radically alter both the representation and the political direction of the council and the school board in the years to come, with the possibility of all-hills or all-flatlands districts electing public officials with vastly different mandates. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

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AC TRANSIT BOARD MEMBER MAY HAVE PROFITED FROM OFFICIAL DUTIES

A hard-hitting internal report found that Joel Young may have used confidential information from the transit agency to benefit himself and his private employer

By Steven Tavares and Robert Gammon

Joel Young

AC Transit board member Joel Young may have used confidential legal information that he received from the transit district for his own personal gain and for that of his private employer, according to a hard-hitting report released last week. Young, an attorney and former state Assembly candidate, also violated AC Transit rules regarding the use of public agency resources for personal gain and may have run afoul of state law, the report stated.

The report, which was conducted by AC Transit's general counsel's office, centered on Young's actions relating to a legal case involving the transit district. The report found that Young may have used confidential information that he gleaned in his role as a board member in order to benefit two similar but separate lawsuits that he is involved in through his private law practice. Young's actions could produce millions in legal fees for him and his firm, The Tidrick Law Firm of Berkeley.

Following a request for comment for this story, Young said his "team is putting together a detailed response" to AC Transit's report that "should be ready by the next board meeting" on June 26. He said the response "will correct both factual inaccuracies and legal inaccuracies" in the report. Steven Tidrick of The Tidrick Law Firm did not respond to a request for comment.

AC Transit board President Greg Harper said in an interview that he pushed to release the report on Young because of the public's right to know about the activities of public officials. "The people who elect you need to know," he said. The findings in the report, which Harper had requested, also raise questions of trust about Young, Harper added.

The report focused on Young's actions involving a lawsuit originally filed in 2004 against AC Transit by the agency's bus drivers. After Young joined the AC Transit board in 2009, he participated in numerous closed-session meetings regarding the district's legal strategy against the drivers. "It is clear ... that Director Young was privy to confidential discussions and memoranda analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of AC Transit's cases during closed sessions — information that would not be subject to a public records request, even after the case settled," stated the report, which was conducted by AC Transit's former General Counsel Ken Scheidig.

The legal case in question — known as the Gilmer case — centered on a long-running dispute between AC Transit and bus drivers who contended that the transit agency had failed to fully pay them. For years, the drivers' union, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 192, alleged that management should have paid drivers for so-called "start-end travel" and "split-shift travel," in which drivers begin routes from one point but end them elsewhere. At the end of their shifts, drivers must find a way back to their cars or other modes of transportation. The union asserted that the costs associated with this travel should be reimbursed to drivers.

AC Transit and the bus drivers ultimately settled the case last year and the settlement was approved in federal court on June 14, 2012. AC Transit has spent a total of about $12.5 million so far on settlement payments and lawyers' fees for the bus drivers, according to the report. That total does not include the amount the transit agency has spent on private lawyers and agency staff time defending itself.

According to the report, about two months after AC Transit settled and agreed to pay its bus drivers for start-end travel and split-shift travel, Young's law firm sued Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in San Jose on August 17, making virtually the same allegations on behalf of bus drivers against that transit authority. Young's firm represents drivers who are also members of ATU in the case against VTA.

In addition, on January 22 of this year, Young's firm sued Tri Met Transit District in Portland, Oregon, making virtually the same allegations on behalf of bus drivers against that transit district. Young's firm represents drivers who are also members of ATU in the case against Tri Met as well. However, ATU does not appear to be involved directly in the lawsuits filed by Young's firm against VTA or Tri Met.

According to the report, Young also requested to review AC Transit's legal file regarding the Gilmer case without telling the agency that he intended to use the information for his firm's lawsuit against Tri Met. After reviewing the file, Young made copies of some of the documents. AC Transit's private attorneys at Hanson Bridgett law firm of San Francisco, who keep the Gilmer case files, then charged AC Transit $565 for helping Young. Hanson Bridgett staffers thought Young was reviewing the files as part of his duties as an AC Transit board member, so they made no effort to remove confidential information.

When questioned, Young offered to pay the $565 fee and contended that he only copied files that were publicly available, the report stated. However, according to the report, Hanson Bridgett kept no log of what Young copied. In addition, Young admitted that he reviewed the case file solely to help his civil action against Tri Met, according to the report.

It's unclear exactly when Young went to work for The Tidrick Law Firm — other than it was sometime during 2012, according to the report. It's also unclear whether the Tidrick Law Firm hired Young specifically because of the confidential information he possessed concerning AC Transit's legal strategies in the Gilmer case.

According to the report, Young violated AC Transit's prohibition against board members using district resources for private gain. It's also possible that his dealings violated state conflict of interest laws. However, the report uncovered no clear evidence that Young specifically shared confidential AC Transit information with his legal partners or his clients in the VTA and Tri Met lawsuits.

Still, the report added that Young's position as co-counsel in the Tri Met and VTA cases "tends to suggest that at least some of the information he acquired while a Board member related to the Gilmer action may be 'material' or 'useful' to his representation of his clients in the Tri Met and VTA actions, and it is possible that some of that information may already have been utilized on their behalf. The facts create at least an inference of such a possibility."

AC Transit board members may address the report at their June 26 meeting. It's unclear, however, whether they will attempt to censure Young or take some other action against him. AC Transit's general counsel's office has requested that Young recuse himself from any further confidential discussions regarding the Gilmer case, and Young agreed, according to the report. Although the case settled, it remains officially open because bus drivers who chose to opt out of the original lawsuit said last December that they want back in.

Evidence of impropriety also is not new for Young. In March 2011, he was accused of striking his then-girlfriend in the face, while in the midst of a romantic interlude with another woman. Young denied the allegation, but a judge said he found neither Young nor his girlfriend's account of what happened to be credible (see "Assembly Candidate Accused of Domestic Violence," 9/21/2011). In an apparent effort to refute the domestic violence allegations during his run for state Assembly, Young touted the endorsement of a noted Oakland women's rights advocate. However, the advocate later said she never endorsed Young (see "Assembly Candidate Joel Young Accused of Falsifying Endorsements," 5/9/2012).

During the Assembly campaign, Young also faced allegations that he used privileged information for personal gain. In early 2012, Service Employees Union International (SEIU) chose to split its Assembly endorsement among labor-friendly Democratic candidates: Rob Bonta, the now current assembly member; Abel Guillen; and Young. But with Young's campaign foundering following the domestic violence allegations, he changed gears in an apparent bid to become more palatable to East Bay moderates and business owners. Young then made public the SEIU's confidential candidate questionnaires filled out by Bonta and Guillen, illustrating how much more liberal they were than him. When the union learned of his actions, it immediately pulled its endorsement of him. ●

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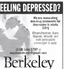
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Senator Feinstein and two powerful water districts want to dam up more of the McCloud River near Mount Shasta and send additional water south.

Friends of the River

TUNNEL VISION: PART TWO

Rivers in Peril

How Jerry Brown's plan to build two giant water tunnels, along with legislation in Congress, could ultimately spoil the last of Northern California's wild and scenic rivers.

By Robert Gammon

California is blessed with some of the most beautiful rivers in North America, and none is more breathtaking than the Merced. From its headwaters in Yosemite National Park, the river gradually grows larger before it cascades over two world-famous waterfalls — Nevada and Vernal — and then flows past El Capitan and Bridal Veil Falls in Yosemite Valley. Once it leaves the park, the Merced begins its one-hundred-mile journey to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and San Francisco Bay. But a portion of the Merced is now in jeopardy of being destroyed, and if that were to happen, it could ultimately lead to the decimation of Northern California's last remaining unspoiled rivers.

California Congressmen Tom McClintock, a conservative Republican, and Jim Costa, a moderate Democrat, are co-sponsoring a bill in the House of Representatives that would remove the federal wild and scenic designation on a section of the Merced River west of Yosemite National Park, thereby stripping it of federal protections. The legislation, HR 934, is backed by the Merced Irrigation District, a water agency representing agricultural interests in the Central Valley that want to expand its large dam on the Merced River but can't — unless Congress lifts the wild and scenic status.

But the McClintock-Costa bill would do much more than help a water district enlarge its reservoir and ruin a portion of a majestic river. If passed by Congress, it would set a national precedent. The federal government has never before removed a wild and scenic designation on a river. The designation is considered to be one of the nation's most important and powerful environmental regulations, and protects many California rivers from being further dammed up and diverted.

The McClintock-Costa bill also has a decent chance of passing both houses of Congress — if it gains the backing of Democratic US Senator Dianne Feinstein, who has a long history of siding with agricultural interests over the environment in California. HR 934 has cleared House committees and is awaiting a vote from the full chamber, where it's expected to pass along party lines thanks to the Republican majority. And if Feinstein throws her weight behind the bill, it could win approval in the Democratic-controlled Senate as well.

Moreover, environmentalists worry that if Congress lifts the wild and scenic designation on the Merced to help agricultural interests, then the same thing could happen to other Northern California rivers. "Wild and scenic — that's the strongest designation that we have," said Jon Rosenfield of the Bay Institute. "If we're willing to remove that for one irrigation district, who's going to stop us from doing that to another river?"

In recent years, in fact, two of the most powerful water districts in the state — Westlands Water District, which represents Big Agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley, and Metropolitan Water District, which serves 19 million customers in Southern California — have been pushing to remove a state wild and scenic protection from the McCloud River near Mount Shasta so that Shasta Lake can be made larger and more water can be sent south.

But the big water prize in California is the major rivers on the North Coast — including the Eel, the Smith, and the Trinity — that are protected by wild and scenic designations. Those rivers contain millions of acre-feet of water that could be diverted. And pressure to dam up those rivers is sure to increase in the decades to come, environmentalists say, because of demands for more water due to climate change, population increase (especially in arid Southern California), and the explosion of fracking — an oil and natural gas extraction method that requires massive amounts of freshwater.

Currently, Big Agribusiness and powerful water interests in California are not only blocked from accessing North Coast rivers because of their wild and scenic designations, but they're also stymied by the state's water conveyance system, particularly the Delta. The fragile estuary serves as a natural barrier to those who want to move more freshwater from Northern California to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

That barrier, however, may soon go away as well because of Governor Jerry Brown's plan to build two giant water tunnels underneath the Delta (see "Tunnel Vision Part One: Delta in Peril," 6/12). Although Brown's plan does not propose sending more freshwater south than the state does now, the huge water tunnels would have the capacity to do so. In fact, records and interviews show that the tunnels could easily accommodate both the extra water created by damming up more of the McCloud River and from diverting millions of acre-feet of water from the North Coast.

"If you build this infrastructure," said Jeff Miller of the Center for Biological Diversity, referring to the giant water tunnels, "at some point it's going to be used to its max."

State records show that, by the late 1950s, California water officials had developed plans to build a series of dams on the Eel River system on the North Coast and send about 2.3 million acre-feet of water — the equivalent of about 750 billion gallons — south each year. The plans represented the continuation of a mindset that had dominated

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California water policy for decades: namely that rivers are resources that should be exploited. This viewpoint fueled a dam-building spree throughout the state and the nation during the first half of the 20th century.

But the environmental movement that spawned in Northern California in the 1960s gave rise to a different ethic: that rivers are vital natural ecosystems that should be protected, and that dams erected to divert water for agriculture, cities, and industry had pushed numerous fish species to the brink of extinction. By the late Sixties, much of mainstream America had begun to embrace this viewpoint as well. And so in October 1968, then-President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Since then, Congress has designated more than two hundred rivers nationwide as wild and scenic. However, it took more than a decade of letter-writing and hard work by environmental groups before California's major North Coast rivers — including the Eel, Smith, and Trinity — received protection under the Wild and Scenic Act in 1981.

And of those three, only the Smith is truly wild. It's the last major undammed river in the state. It begins in the mountains that straddle the California-Oregon border and winds through a spectacular canyon of old-growth redwoods in Del Norte County on its way to the Pacific Ocean near Crescent City. Congress also protected all of the Smith's tributaries. "People worked for years to get the Smith River designated as wild and scenic," noted Don Gillespie of Friends of Del Norte, a grassroots environmental group.

As for the Eel and Trinity, state and local water agencies erected some dams on them before they received wild and scenic protection (although the water diverted from the Eel River system is not shipped south). The Eel snakes through Humboldt County's towering redwoods, along Highway 101, on its way to the ocean near Ferndale. And the Trinity begins in the snow-capped peaks near Mount Shasta before its meandering trek to the Pacific.

Hundreds of miles away, the Merced River received its wild and scenic designation in two stages — in 1987 and 1992 — for different portions of the river. The 1992 designation, signed by then-President George H.W. Bush, protected the lower section of the river, west of Yosemite National Park. Inside the park, the river is completely unspoiled, but outside of it, the Merced was been dammed several times, and the 1992 designation protected sections of the river that are still wild.

One of those dams is just 22 miles outside of Yosemite. Lake McClure is a massive reservoir created by the Exchequer Dam and owned and operated by the Merced Irrigation District. Although the reservoir typically holds about 500,000 acre-feet of water — the equivalent of about 163 billion gallons — the Merced Irrigation District and the agricultural interests it represents in the eastern Central Valley want more.

They're proposing to raise the height of Exchequer Dam in order to trap additional Merced River water in Lake McClure. But doing so would require flooding a section of the river that is protected under the Wild and Scenic Act. As a result, the irrigation district and its influential customers have been lobbying to remove the wild and scenic designation from that portion of the river.

In 2012, Republican Congressman Jeff Denham introduced a bill in the House to lift the designation. At the time, Denham's district included Exchequer Dam. His bill won approval in the House last summer on a vote 232 to 188, mostly along party lines, with Democrats voting against. The legislation, however, stalled and then died in the Senate.

As a result, McClintock — a conservative politician from Southern California who had moved to the Sierra foothills, won election to the House, and whose district now includes Exchequer Dam (because of redistricting) — introduced HR 934 earlier this year. It's nearly identical to Denham's 2012 bill. In addition, Costa, a pro-agriculture Democrat representing the San Joaquin Valley, agreed to co-sponsor McClintock's bill, thereby giving it bipartisan credentials.

Environmentalists expect that HR 934 will win approval in the Republican-dominated House, but the odds of it passing the Senate are not as strong — unless Feinstein signs on

Removing the wild and scenic designation from the Merced would set a national precedent. Friends of the River

to it or strike a compromise with her House colleagues on mutually agreeable language. "The wild and scenic designation will be difficult to defend if Feinstein supports [HR 934]," noted Ron Stork of Friends of the River, an environmental group that is leading the fight against McClintock's legislation.

A representative from Feinstein's press office did not respond to a question as to whether she plans to back HR 934, but she's been quoted by some news outlets over the past year as saying that she supports raising Exchequer Dam, which would be not allowed under federal law as long as the wild and scenic designation is in place.

Stork noted that Feinstein has also expressed support for giving the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the power to decide whether to raise Exchequer Dam — and thereby carve out an exemption to the wild and scenic designation. Such a move would be similar to what Feinstein did on behalf of a controversial oyster farm in Point Reyes National Seashore. In that case, she authored a bill that gave then US Interior Secretary Ken Salazar the authority to ignore federal law and allow Drakes Bay Oyster Company to keep operating on land that had been designated by Congress to become federally protected wilderness. Ultimately, Salazar declined to set a precedent and renew the oyster farm's lease, but the issue is still tied up in the courts.

In 2009, Feinstein also assisted a wealthy grower from the San Joaquin Valley, Stewart Resnick, along with state agribusiness interests, in an effort to extract more water from the Delta and thus leave less freshwater for salmon and other fish. Resnick is a major player in California water politics and a big political campaign donor.

If Feinstein ultimately helps lift the wild and scenic designation from the Merced, it will destroy a picturesque yet remote section of the river that is only accessible to hikers, rafters, and boaters. "They're trying to pick off a part that is rarely visited," Stork said.

Moreover, for environmentalists and nature lovers, the precedent-setting move would be even more heart-wrenching because it likely won't provide much water to the irrigation district. District officials didn't respond to a request for comment for this story, but according to an analysis by Friends of the River, safety issues limit how much the district would be able to raise Exchequer Dam. As a result, removing the wild and scenic designation may provide no more than 12,000 acre-feet of additional water for Lake McClure, an amount that represents just 2 percent of the reservoir's normal capacity.

"They're willing to undo the wild and scenic designation in order to increase their [water] yield by a few percent," Stork said.

In addition, the irrigation district has yet to definitively say that it will raise the dam if HR 934 passes — perhaps because the district may not make enough money to pay for the needed construction from the small amount of water it stands to gain.

"They probably won't build it," Stork added. "But by then it will be too late. They would have already done the damage, set the precedent."

If the Merced River loses its wild and scenic status, then the McCloud River in Northern California is the next likely choice. For starters, the McCloud does not have full federal protection, and instead has a lesser wild and scenic status under state law. In addition, some of California's most powerful political players have had their sights on the McCloud for several years.

The Merced Irrigation District is lobbying to raise Exchequer Dam. Friends of the River

Near Mount Shasta, the McCloud features jaw-dropping waterfalls and offers great fishing, camping, and picnicking spots. It also runs parallel to the Sacramento River and flows into Shasta Lake, the state's largest reservoir. As a result, the McCloud plays an integral part in the state's water conveyance system, which sends massive amounts of freshwater from Northern California to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

Basically, the current system works like this: State and federal water authorities take millions of acre-feet of freshwater that sits in Shasta Lake, including water from the McCloud, and then send the water — along with additional supplies from other major reservoirs, like Lake Oroville — down the Sacramento River to the Delta. There, two giant pumps near Tracy remove the freshwater from the Delta and send it south in large canals and aqueducts.

But, currently, several factors limit the amount of water that can be shipped south. One factor is the size of Shasta Lake. If it were larger, then more water could be sent down the Sacramento and ultimately to the south. But raising the height of Shasta Dam and enlarging the reservoir would violate state law because it would flood a section of the McCloud that is protected by wild and scenic status.

That protection, however, is by no means robust, considering the powerful interests involved. Feinstein has repeatedly expressed support for raising Shasta Dam, and both the Westlands Water District and the Metropolitan Water District have complained loudly over the years about not getting enough water; both want to change state law to expand Shasta Lake. These water districts also have traditionally exerted an outsized influence on the state legislature, thanks to the millions they've spent on lobbying and donating to political campaigns.

Last December, the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors voted to lobby the state legislature to raise Shasta Dam. And last week, Jason Peltier, Westlands' chief deputy general manager and a former high-level Interior Department official in President George W. Bush's administration, confirmed to the *Express* in an interview that his district also "would support the raising of Shasta Dam."

In 2012, the US Bureau of Reclamation, which plays a major role in California water policy, released a draft report stating that raising Shasta Dam would add about 133,400 acre-feet of water to the state's water conveyance system, and that it's economically feasible to do so.

But some environmental groups have challenged the bureau's report and contend that taxpayers will ultimately have to pay at least a portion of the costs of expanding Shasta Lake because the additional water won't produce enough revenue due to the cheap water prices given to Westlands and Metropolitan. "It's a tremendous burden on the taxpayers," said Tom Stokely of the California Water Impact Network. "Westlands Water District would be the primary beneficiary of the project."

Peltier said, however, that raising Shasta Dam won't be a high priority for Westlands until another roadblock to sending more freshwater south is removed: the Delta. Currently, the US Endangered Species Act and other federal and state environmental laws limit the amount of water pumped out of the Delta. Taking out too much freshwater would make the estuary too salty for endangered and threatened fish. Increasing water diversions would also result in the deaths of millions more Delta smelt, which get sucked into and shredded by the giant Tracy pumps that move the water. "There's a bottleneck in the Delta," Stokely said.

And that bottleneck is why both Westlands and Metropolitan water districts are pushing so hard for Governor Brown's giant water tunnels plan. The twin, 40-foot-wide, 39-mile-long tunnels would be equipped with state-of-the-art screens that would help prevent fish from being shredded. As a result, more Northern California water could be shipped south if the tunnels are built — especially if there is more water to ship. And there would be more water available if Shasta Dam becomes larger and the McCloud River loses its wild and scenic protection.

But the water from the McCloud would be just a drop in the bucket compared to what's available in the untapped rivers of the North Coast.

The Brown administration has no plans to send more freshwater from Northern California to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. But in the decades to come, the pressure to ship more water south will intensify, especially if the state has the infrastructure in place to make it happen.

A recent climate change forecast from NASA predicted that, as temperatures increase around the globe, regions that receive a lot of precipitation will likely get wetter, while drier areas, like Southern California, will likely get drier. Even a draft study from the state's own Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which includes the governor's giant water tunnels proposal, noted that "some areas in northern California may experience higher annual rainfall amounts and potentially larger storm events, but California, as a whole, particularly southern California, will be 15 to 35% drier by 2100."

In addition, numerous studies have concluded that climate change will result in more periods of drought, especially in arid regions — thereby creating additional pressure to ship water to Southern California. Climate change will also likely produce more heat waves, and thus magnify the demand for even more water to keep crops from wilting.

Population growth also promises to heighten water needs. California's population is expected to top 50 million people by 2050, according to the state Department of Finance. And most of that growth is projected to occur in Southern California. More people also will mean the state will need to produce more food to eat.

At the same time, California is going to need lots of water if the fracking boom expands here as it has in other states. Fracking involves the shooting of massive amounts of water and chemicals deep into the earth in order to release otherwise trapped natural gas and oil. Each fracked well uses between five million and ten million gallons of water. Earlier this month, *The New York Times* reported on the increasing friction in California between Big Oil and Gas interests and Big Agriculture. And such fights likely will intensify as the competing desires for increasingly scarce water supplies grow.

These numerous pressures make environmentalists even more worried about the giant water tunnels plan. Under the governor's current proposal, the twin tunnels would ship up to 9,000 cubic feet of freshwater per second — which works out to about 6.5 million acre-feet a year — from the Sacramento River north of the Delta to the Tracy pumps. But the state is proposing to take between 4.8 million and 5.6 million acre-feet annually, because removing too much freshwater from the Sacramento before it reaches the Delta would salt up the estuary.

Nonetheless, Brown's plan also calls for building the tunnels with the capacity to take up to 15,000 cubic feet of water per second — or about 10.9 million acre-feet a year. Although diverting that much water from the Sacramento is impossible right now because there typically is not that much freshwater in the river, there could be more water in the future.

Under the state's old water conveyance plan from the late 1950s and early '60s, the North Coast rivers could produce millions of acre-feet of water to ship south if they are dammed up, too. A plan from 1957 proposed to ship diverted water from the Eel River system through a large tunnel to be built in Northern California that

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would connect to the Sacramento River which would then convey the water south.

However that old plan doesn't make practical sense today because damming up the North Coast rivers, dumping the water in the Sacramento River and then sending it to the Delta would only result in more water flowing out to the ocean. That's because more water cannot be removed from the Delta and sent south — even if there is more water available — because of the problem of millions of fish being shredded at the Tracy pumps. "It doesn't do any good to dam them now," Stork said of the North Coast rivers, "because they can't get the water through the Delta."

However the governor's giant water tunnels plan would break that logjam. The tunnels would take the water out of the Sacramento before it reaches the Delta. And because the state plans to build the giant tunnels large enough to carry up to 10.9 million acre-feet of water a year, the tunnels could easily handle 2.3 million acre-feet from the Eel River system.

So why build tunnels that can carry much more water than the Brown administration plans to send south? Nancy Vogel, a representative for the California Department of Water Resources, a major backer of the water tunnels plan, said the state plans to use gravity to move the water through the tunnels — and the bigger the tunnels, the less friction there will be. "You need to have tunnels of that size to have gravity flow," she said.

Running the tunnels at full capacity would require pumping the water through the tunnels, which is more expensive, she added. But Vogel acknowledged that the tunnels would nonetheless have the capacity to handle 15,000 cubic-feet per second (CFS) of water — the equivalent of 10.9 million acre-feet a year. She said it would add about $1 billion in extra costs to do so. She also said in a follow-up email that increasing the amount of water shipped through the tunnels also would require a new permit approval process.

However, building the tunnels larger than needed also will add billions to the cost of the project, thereby raising questions as to whether it makes sense to make them that big if there wasn't a possibility to use them at their full capacity. In addition, paying an extra $1 billion down the line to run them at full capacity is not a lot of money considering the stakes, so it's feasible that such a scenario could become reality.

Environmental groups, not surprisingly, are wary and believe that Westlands and Metropolitan water districts are pushing for the larger tunnels in order to get their hands on more water in the future. "It is hard to imagine that the exporters would pay the additional billions of dollars to construct the 15,000 CFS tunnels unless the true plan and project is to operate at that level," Friends of the River wrote in a letter to federal water officials earlier this month.

The Smith is California's last major undammed river.

P[illegible]tler of Westlands Water District said the agency has taken no position on the proposed removal of the federal wild and scenic status on the Merced River — or of removing the designation from any other California river. However, the district does support raising Shasta Dam, which would require the lifting of a state wild and scenic protection on the McCloud River.

Moreover, people who have kept close tabs on Westlands over the years say the district has repeatedly made deceptive moves and kept its true motives under wraps in order to further its interests and those of Big Ag. In fact, Westlands owes its current prosperity to a decades-old deception.

Today, Westlands is the largest water district in the nation in terms of acreage. It includes 600,000 acres of desert land on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley that has been turned into an agricultural cash cow thanks to cheap water diverted from Northern California through the Delta. As we reported last week in part one of this two part series, Westlands began receiving Delta water after a politician bankrolled by the district, US Representative Bernard Sisk, a Fresno Democrat, vowed to Congress in 1960 that the water would allow Westlands to become a bastion for small-scale family farms.

However that promise never came true. Instead, Westlands and the factory farms it represents used the huge profits that they reaped from all that water to make sure that the area has remained primarily in the hands of Big Ag. Records show that Westlands and its major growers have spent millions on lobbying and political donations over the past few decades. At the same time, the district has pocketed more than $1 billion in taxpayer subsidies, according to an exhaustive report on the history of the irrigation district by longtime journalist Lloyd G Carter that was published by Golden Gate University's *Environmental Law Journal*.

Westlands not only exerts considerable influence in Sacramento, but it also has plenty of political juice in Washington, DC. The district's primary Beltway lobbyist, Norman Brownstein, is a well-known political power broker. The late Senator Ted Kennedy once dubbed him the "101st Senator."

In 2011, Westlands spent $860,000 on lobbying Congress, and then shelled out more than double that amount — $1,860,000 — in 2012, lobbying on issues relating to the US Bureau of Reclamation and the US Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act protects threatened fish in the Delta and is one the main reasons why Westlands has not received more water from the estuary.

Westlands growers also have contributed heavily over the years to Feinstein and Congressman Costa, the San Joaquin Valley Democrat who is co-sponsoring the bill to remove the wild and scenic designation on the Merced River. In 2011, Costa authored the More Water for Our Valley Act, which sought (unsuccessfully) to weaken the Endangered Species Act and ease restrictions on pumping water out of the Delta. In 2012, he teamed up with Feinstein and Republicans in a push to raise Shasta Dam. And just last month, Costa introduced the More Water and Security for Californians Act, which also seeks to weaken fish protections and increase water exports from the Delta.

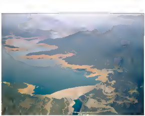
Over the years, Westlands also has attempted to sway public opinion in its favor by claiming that water cutbacks from the Delta due to fish protections have caused high unemployment and widespread poverty in the western San Joaquin Valley. But according to Carter's research, the Westlands area has been plagued by crushing poverty for decades for reasons that have nothing to do with the amount of water flowing to the area. Instead, the region's economic deprivation is primarily the result of giant factory farms employing migrant workers at rock-bottom wages. In 2008, Costa's Congressional district had the dubious distinction of being named the poorest in the nation.

Despite Westlands' ties to prominent Democrats, wealthy hardline conservatives dominate the district's power structure. Among them is the Borba family, one of the region's largest growers. Earlier this year, Mark Borba, who operates an 8,600-acre farming operation, stirred widespread controversy after he sent obscenity-laced emails to Costa and Westlands Water District officials referring to President Obama as "Blackie."

After news of the racial slur broke, Borba apologized and was forced to resign from a local hospital board, but the emails also revealed the extent to which some Westlands growers expect politicians to do their bidding after donating to or raising funds for their campaigns. In the 2012 election cycle, Borba contributed tens of thousands of dollars to various political campaigns, mostly to Republicans, but also to Costa and Feinstein. He also hosted a major fundraiser last year for Feinstein, according to multiple sources. And in an email, which was obtained by the *Fresno Bee*, Borba revealed what he expected from her in return: "I'm tired of these [expletive] politicians waltzing through here ... telling us how tough things are ... picking our pockets for $$$$ ... and they [sic] returning to DC and doing nothing! Put their [expletive] careers on the line ... or step down."

In an interview, Carter said that based on the long history of Westlands growers, it's a good bet that they have their eyes on North Coast rivers, too. "The point to make is: should we trust these people?" said Carter, who is now the president of the environmental group Save Our Streams Council. "Based on their history, I'd say, 'No.'"

To date, Feinstein has refused to comment on the Borba emails. But late last week, in an op-ed in the *Sacramento Bee*, she once again pushed for the expansion of Shasta Lake.


Feinstein wants to expand Shasta Lake, the state's largest reservoir.

California Department of Water Resources

She also heaped praise on the giant water tunnels plan and talked about the possibility of amending the US Endangered Species Act to allow more water exports from the Delta.

As for McClintock, he has been quoted in press accounts as opposing the giant water tunnels plan — unless it's accompanied by more dam-building projects. His press office did not respond to questions as to whether he favors damming up the North Coast rivers. But he has been quoted repeatedly as saying that he hopes to "usher in an era of abundance" of water in California. He also supports removing the wild and scenic designation on the portion of the Merced River inside Yosemite National Park. And he has been quoted as characterizing the National Wild and Scenic Act as "truly outrageous bureaucratic red tape."

For the past several decades, nature enthusiasts have viewed the federal wild and scenic designation as the gold standard for environmental protection. Rivers that received wild and scenic status were thought to be protected in perpetuity. But the McClintock-Costa bill, coupled with the increasing call to raise Shasta Dam and flood a wild and scenic section of the McCloud River, is providing new evidence that no environmental law is sacrosanct. And no river is safe.

At this point, it's unclear whether Feinstein will decide to back HR 934 and then shepherd it through the Senate. But even if she does, and even if the state legislature decides to lift the wild and scenic status on the McCloud, California's beautiful North Coast rivers are not necessarily doomed.

As both critics and proponents of the governor's giant water tunnels plan have noted, it makes no sense to dam up and divert the Smith, Eel and Trinity rivers — unless the twin tunnels are built. Without that infrastructure, it would be impossible to send millions of acre-feet of additional water through the Delta and then pump it south. So while federal wild and scenic designations could certainly help keep the North Coast rivers safe, the twin tunnels may present the gravest threat to their future.

"If you construct the water tunnels," noted Stork of Friends of the River, "then it could be politically easier" to remove the wild and scenic designations on the rivers of California's North Coast. ●

Journalist Joaquin Palomino contributed to this report.

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Aretha Sack and Janine Lee have sold nearly 15,000 bottles of polish

CULTURE SPY

FOR THE LOVE OF COLOR

How two color-obsessed CCA graduates turned their passion for nail polish into a profitable pursuit.

By Cassie McFadden

The first thing you might notice about Aretha Sack — apart from her tattoos and prodigiously blond, wavy, and long hair — are her fingernails, which on any given occasion are painted some shade of lime green, coral, or other eye-catching hues. The 25-year-old Oakland resident dresses up her digits daily, and has done so everywhere from BART stations to the Legion of Honor. Although she moved to the Bay Area from Austin in 2007 to study painting and drawing at the California College of the Arts, she soon found that she preferred her own lacquer and nails to acrylic and canvas. "I was in painting classes that bored the shit out of me," she said in a recent interview. "So I'd just do my nails in class."

Sack had been pushing her palette beyond bottles of store-bought polish for years. Uninspired by the colors available at the drug store, she took matters into her own hands by mixing name-brand polishes into custom concoctions made to match her earliest color memories, like the orange roofs and turquoise exteriors that characterized old Howard Johnson's restaurants and motor lodges. "I was like, 'Why don't more people use colors like these?'" Sack recalled. "From a young age I was kind of bummed on the nail scene. It's always been a problem in my life."

Soon Sack started painting the nails of her art-school classmates, and even selling them her custom lacquer. That got the attention of Janine Lee, a CCA fashion design student who grew up with a love for nail polish and shared Sack's fondness for color. "All the girls at school were just so into it because Aretha picked the best colors," Lee gushed. Soon Sack was spending much of her free time at Lee's San Francisco apartment. "She would just stop by and Kimmy Gibbler our house and say 'I mixed a new color. What's for dinner?'" the now 24-year-old Lee joked, referring to the ever-present character on the sitcom *Full House*. The newfound friends casually called their gothic rags "Floss Gloss," a nickname that would soon encompass much more than their art college crew.

Both Lee and Sack graduated in 2010 and, while they both kept their customer service jobs, they soon decided to channel their affinity for funky nail polish into their own business. When Lee approached Sack with the proposal, it was a no-brainer. "My dad was like, 'You should just jump on the back of her motorcycle and ride,'" Sack said. And by 2012 (and with no formal business training) they had written a business plan, found investors and a local manufacturer and turned Floss Gloss into a small nail polish company that today produces the affordable and formaldehyde-free polishes they had long craved, in playful opaque colors like a neon lime green and a pinkish lilac, each packaged in a dainty bottle with a decidedly girly golden-handled brush. "Aretha and I were trying to redesign what we had available to us as consumers in college and in our early twenties," Lee explained.

And just as Floss Gloss was entering the market the polish industry itself was beginning to boom. Today, even traditionally color-conservative nail polish companies are starting to manufacture more diverse shades and accessories, from textured and neon polishes to at-home gel manicure kits. A recent report by the market research firm Mintel revealed that the US nail color and care market has grown by nearly three quarters, or 72 percent, since 2007.

That growth isn't so surprising when you consider that video-sharing websites like YouTube and social media photo-sharing apps like Instagram have allowed nail enthusiasts to easily share their painted nails with millions of people — before their topcoat has even dried. Floss Gloss' own Tumblr, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram feeds are updated with religious frequency, and Lee said there's a tangible connection between the company's social media updates and its sales.

The recession may also have lent a hand in reinvigorating the polish industry. "Except now it's not the Lipstick Index, it's the Nail Polish Index," Lee said, referring to former Estée Lauder chairman Leonard Lauder's theory that when the economy slows and women can no longer afford to splurge on clothing, they turn to less-expensive makeup to spruce up their style. "Women are so much more comfortable buying nail polish as a small luxury that it's become our saving grace in a small way."

If there's any truth to Lauder's theory, it could help explain some of Floss Gloss' early acclaim, which included write-ups in *Allure* and *Seventeen* magazines and a wholesale deal with Urban Outfitters, which featured multiple nail art tutorials on its blog — all of which have helped push the Bay Area business into the national beauty product market. The recent success has allowed Lee to quit her bartending job, and Sack said she'll be resigning from her day job as well.

Lee estimated that since Floss Gloss debuted, it has sold nearly 15,000 bottles of polish, bases, and topcoats, which retail for $8 each. Two new polishes — Pony, a neon peach, and Blood, Suede & Tears, a vampy blood-orange brown — were released this month. Until recently, Sack was not just living but quite literally breathing Floss Gloss: Her Oakland apartment served as the company's storage space. "I feel like such a drug lord because I have had nail polish for days," Sack joked, just before the bottles were relocated to a proper storage facility. "But sometimes I'm like, 'Whoa ... gotta crack a window.'"

Floss Gloss' wider success aside, it's easy to see the company's local appeal. Unlike large makeup corporations, which tend to be dominated by non-makeup-wearing men, Sack and Lee embody precisely the market they're trying to appeal to: namely, fashion- and color-conscious young women who aren't afraid to rock a nail polish color inspired by gas station nacho cheese. Together, the duo is a hip-hop-infused feminine flurry of gold-hooped earrings, pastel scrunchies, white high-tops, thrift-store fur coats and, of course, artfully painted nails. If ever a company's product was so synonymous with its creators' personal style, it's probably Floss Gloss — whose promotional sticker depicts a manicured woman provocatively posed in green stilettos, the company's logo emblazoned in cursive across her posterior.

So it seems fitting that you can sometimes find the Floss Gloss crew set up at a local dive bar, painting nails and selling its bottles of polish. The duo initially started organizing in-bar polish parties at San Francisco's Beauty Bar late last year. Last month they brought it to Oakland's Layover, where those who had tweeted to get on the list got their nails done during Trill Team 6's DJ set. "It got so packed people were twerking on our display," Lee said, adding that they'd like to make last month's event a monthly occurrence. "Aretha and I love rap and parties and stuff, so it's cool to be with our friends, painting nails, and selling polish to women we've never met before."

For more info: FlossGloss.com ●

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Adult dodgeball: stronger throws, no-sting balls.

Ready. Aim. Dodge.

The Recreational Adult Dodgeball league is serious about its commitment to dodgeball — and cold beers.

Adam Howe loves organized sports: the sweat, the complexity of the team dynamic, and the competitive atmosphere. Best of all, however, the Pyramid Alehouse general manager loves grabbing a beer after all that is over.

Four and a half years ago, Howe moved to the East Bay from Boston, where he played a variety of adult intramural sports. While he enjoyed all of them, he said, dodgeball was by far the most popular. "It's that game that everyone remembers playing as a kid. Regardless of whether or not you have fond memories of it, it's loaded with nostalgia," said Howe. "And once you get on the court as an adult, all that comes rushing back to you."

The concept of an adult dodgeball league is certainly nothing new. Semi- to fully ironic iterations have sprung up across the country since the early 2000s, filling their ranks with, as one magazine article in 2004 put it, "backward-looking thirtysomethings."

But for Howe and his three partners at the Recreational Adult Dodgeball league (RAD), the game is more than a punchline. So after playing (and winning) in other leagues that weren't quite as serious about dodgeball, they decided to start their own. "We decided we could do it just as well, if not better," Howe said. "There was a lot of time in between and we just wanted to play dodgeball, you know? We can make it way more organized, but then still all go out for beers after the game's over."

Now, RAD is hosting open play every Thursday in June at Claremont Middle School (5750 College Ave., Oakland) before the start of an organized season in July. For those uninitiated in the delights of adult dodgeball, or who have slightly traumatic memories of trying to escape giant red balls hurtling from seemingly every direction, the open play nights are a good way to ease into a sport that, on the surface, seems like it could get pretty intense with grown-ups involved.

Howe emphasized that it's usually not too crazy. One big modification, made particularly for the full-grown — and perhaps slightly more fragile-bodied — adults playing the game, is that RAD will play with no-sting balls. "This isn't your kickball rubber," Howe said. "It's basically designed so you can throw them twice as hard and you're half as likely to get hurt." And while some people are bound to get competitive, the overall vibe is usually focused on just having fun. Plus, unlike in elementary school, after the game everyone can limp over to the nearest bar and enjoy one of the ice-cold benefits of adulthood. 7-9 p.m. $5. RADLeague.com

— Azeen Ghorayshi

ATTRACTIONS

Berkeley Architectural Tour Free private tours of architect Julia Morgan's Mediterranean/Gothic "little castle." Sun., June 23, 1-3:30 p.m., free. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Library Wall Art Jam Watch some comic [illegible] from all over our walls of the [illegible] Berkeley library [illegible]. Fri., June 28, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library South Branch, 1901 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-981-6260.

[illegible] Park Mosaic Celebration Celebrating the final completion of the [illegible] Park mural project with an afternoon potluck lunch, a fire engine for the kids, and a short ceremony. Sat., June 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

4th Fairmont Community Block Party An afternoon street party filled with games, music, food, and more. At 47th and San Pablo in Emeryville. Sat., June 22, 1-5 p.m., free.

African American City Employee Annual Juneteenth Celebration African-American city employees host their [illegible] Juneteenth Celebration. Come enjoy food, music, and dancing. Fri., June 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th St. and Broadway, Oakland.

Alameda County Fair The annual fair celebrates with livestock and agriculture displays, carnival rides, exhibits, horse racing, food, and [illegible]. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Continues through July 7. $4-$10, children under 5 free. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. 925-426-7600. AlamedaCountyFair.com.

Berkeley Juneteenth Festival With African drumming, jazz, blues, neo-soul, rhythm and blues, and reggae, it boasts [illegible] and crafts for kids. Sun., June 23, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., free.

Celebrate the Summer Solstice Eden Canyon Winery will be pouring, flowers and wine will be ready to enjoy while you walk through the collection. Fri., June 21, 6-8 p.m., $15. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Oakland Party A summer solstice celebration featuring artisan food vendors, music, and more. Fri., June 21, 5-10 p.m., free. Linden Street Brewery, 95 Linden St., Oakland. 510-812-1394. LindenBrew.com.

Juneteenth 50th Anniversary Celebration Program honors men and women [illegible]. Sat., June 22, 3-8 p.m. [illegible] per person, $35 per family. Mosswood Park, 3612 Webster St., Oakland. 510-987-[illegible]. [illegible]

Juneteenth at Peralta [illegible] [illegible] Sat., June 22, 2-8 p.m., free. Peralta [illegible] Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. PeraltaHacienda.org.

Lunada 2013 Dinner, [illegible] and dancing [illegible]. Sat., June 29, 5:30-9:30 p.m. [illegible] 2318 Blanding Ave. [illegible]

[illegible] Cannabis Cup The two-day cannabis expo will feature [illegible] and [illegible] Oakland, with HIGH TIMES [illegible] the marijuana movement, and cannabis celebration. Sat., June 22, noon; Sun., June 23, noon. $65-$75. Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. [illegible]

Oakland-Fremont Sister City Ninety-Year Anniversary With German food, beer, music and dancing. Sun., June 23, 1 p.m., $15 [illegible] Oakland Tourist [illegible] 3115 Button Rd., Oakland. 510-531-2930.

Walk in the Wild at Oakland Zoo The annual fundraiser features food from nearly 100 restaurants, wineries, breweries [illegible]. With live music, dancing, and more. For ages 21 and up. June 22, 5-10 p.m., $150. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

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HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

"Embodied Awareness," A Workshop in the Feldenkrais Method For anyone interested in developing an embodied sense of self, utilizing the Feldenkrais method of [illegible] through movement. Sun., June 23, 10 a.m.-noon, $35. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

[illegible] Seminar [illegible] Sat., June 22, [illegible] $20 advance, $25 at the door. [illegible] 2513 [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5800. [illegible]

"What Innovative Family Farming Can Teach Us About [illegible] and Healing" With Dr. Daphne Miller, author of Farmacology, showcasing her traveling exploration of organic family farms. Thu., June 20, 7 p.m., free. Pollinate Farm and Garden, 2727 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-686-3493. PollinateFarm.com.

KIDS

[illegible] Annual Ball All teams are guaranteed at least 2 games [illegible] elimination games [illegible] ages 8-17. Sat., June 29, [illegible] free. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5150. CityofBerkeley.info.

Tykes Explorers: "Secret Stamps" Discover how fossils form and what we can learn from [illegible] hands and tools, and [illegible] one to take home. For toddlers, ages 3-5. Tue., June 25, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m., $10. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

PICKS

Introduction to Homebrewing: Summer Beers

Sometimes it's so hot out that all you want is the crisp, clean flavor of a light ale. Learn to brew your own on Sunday when Walnut (4706 45th St., Oakland) hosts a summer-beer-making class for everyone from total noobs to more experienced brewers. Instructors Hillary Huffard and Luke Janson — who have brewed more than 150 original recipes on their East Oakland farm — will teach the ins and outs of brewing chemistry, explain what makes a good summer beer, and lead you in the process of brewing your own. On top of eating a lunch provided by Doña Tomás, you'll take home your own fermenter filled with a personally concocted summery brew. Cheers to that. *— Azeen Ghorayshi*

Hillary [illegible] and Luke

Sunday, June 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., $90. TemescalHomeBrewing.com

Berkeley Pride 365

Strap on your rainbow wristbands and head to Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) for the annual Berkeley Pride celebration. This year's theme is "First Comes Love, Then Comes Marriage ...," focusing on the upcoming Supreme Court rulings on the Defense of Marriage Act and Prop 8. In advance of the decisions, the evening will be celebratory, with comedy, live music, free food, a resource fair, burlesque, drag, and more. Celebrate LGBTQ rights, the fight to obtain them, and all those — past and present — leading the charge. *— A.G.*

Monday, June 24, 5-9 p.m., free. 510-981-7070 or BerkeleyPride.org

LGBT

Oakland [illegible] Hosted by C.I.E.V.E.R. [illegible] Arts and Alameda filmmaker Cheryl Dunye, dedicated to all [illegible] women, and people of color in the [illegible] arts. Thu., June 20, 7 p.m. The New Parkway Theater, 474 24th St., Oakland.

San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival The world's oldest and largest showcase of queer cinema from around the globe. June 20-30, $12 per screening. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street, San Francisco. 415-621-6120.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

"Islands of Tranquility" [illegible] ways to find tranquility amidst the [illegible] of life. Sun., June 23, 6-7 p.m., free. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Nyingma.org.

"The Universe of Yin" Teaching how to increase balance and focus in Yin. "Yin leads to a life experience that is more in tune with the rhythm of life around us." Fri., June 21, 7:30-9 p.m., $20 [illegible], $30 at the door. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 424 Monte Vista Ave., Oakland. 510-654-5300. PlymouthOakland.org.

SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

[illegible] to Oakland, 4 Paws for Ability Enjoy live music by Shelley Doty and Friends while enjoying jazz, wine, drinks and [illegible] available for purchase and benefiting 4 Paws for Ability. Sun., June 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible] 1504 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] Friday A unique [illegible] shopping experience at Frank Ogawa Plaza in partnership with the City of Oakland and the West Coast [illegible] Association. With [illegible] Just Oakland, [illegible] and more. Fri., June 21, 5-9 p.m.

"A Neighborhood Gathering" Meet the [illegible] neighbors interested in learning new skills and sharing their [illegible] with the community. [illegible] and bring [illegible] for swapping [illegible] neighbors. Sun., June 23, 1-4 p.m., free. [illegible] 3415 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-444-[illegible]. [illegible]

North Oakland Yard Sale [illegible] in the community [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 39th Street, a map [illegible] on the website and at the lots [illegible]. Sat., June 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Juneteenth Pioneers Honoring Barbara Rodgers, Ray Taliaferro, [illegible], Joe Robinson, and [illegible] Lange. Sat., June 22, 5 p.m., $75. Geoffrey's Inner Circle, 410 14th St., Oakland. 510-839-4644. GeoffreysInnerCircle.com.

[illegible] Mystery Dinner [illegible] Solve a murder mystery while enjoying your [illegible]. Thu., June 20, 7-9 p.m., $45, or $90 for a couple. [illegible] 408 14th St., Oakland. 925-583-8863.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Annual [illegible] Yard Camp Out Join the Office of Parks & Recreation at their annual campout. With family fun, [illegible] dinner, camp [illegible], and continental breakfast. Until 11 a.m. on Sunday. Sat., June 22, 2 p.m. Joaquin Miller Park, 3594 Sanborn Dr., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]/JoaquinMillerPark.

East Bay AIDS Walk Register for the 5k [illegible] at EastBayAIDSWalk.org. Sat., June 29, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Free Oakland Yoga Free outdoor yoga offered by [illegible] Yoga in Alameda. Sun., June 23, free. Temescal Farmers' Market, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Moonlight Hike Experience the summer solstice with a 4-5 mile hike through the redwoods at twilight and [illegible] light. Fri., June 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m., $18. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Summer Sailstice With an [illegible], food and beverage booths, entertainment, educational seminars, children's sailing, a "build a boat" competition, and more. Sat., June 22, 10:30 a.m., free. Encinal Yacht Club, 1251 Pacific Marina, Alameda. 510-522-3272. Encinal.org.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Beneath a Splendid Moon, Suffering

Azin Seraj presents a politically pointed exhibition about the effects of American economic policy on the people of her native Iran

Sublunar, Azin Seraj's debut solo exhibition now at Martina }{ Johnston Gallery, is one of the more overtly political exhibitions you will find in Berkeley presently. The artist, who holds citizenship in Iran and Canada, presents a vehement counter-narrative to the Obama administration's rhetoric around placing escalating economic sanctions on Iran. At the same time, Seraj sees her work as, above all, "synthesizing personal experiences and meaning" in the contexts in which she operates. Her pieces often drift askew of hard politics toward a more expansive, even mystical aesthetic terrain. The result is illuminating.

Azin Seraj's *Infant Formula*

Although exhibited in the gallery's back screening room, *Sublunar*'s frontispiece is "Lullaby," a video in which hazy and unsettling imagery — rows of ice cubes dyed to resemble the Iranian flag slowly dripping; plumes of likewise colored smoke curling up into a burnt-orange cloud — accompanies an audio track of Obama triumphantly announcing the tightening of economic sanctions on Iran in condemnation of the country's nuclear program. "We are sending a clear message that we stand with the Iranian people as they seek to exercise their universal rights," he concludes. Text then appears on screen before a moonlit nocturnal scene, effectively replacing the suggestive opacity of the previous visuals with a clear position: the sanctions, although couched by the American president in a rhetoric of humanitarianism, have in fact resulted in serious shortages of food and medicine for Iranians. Obama's waxing on universal rights hence rings with "no validity or justification amongst Iranians across the world."

Rampant inflation is at the fore of the Iranian people's plight, and many of the works in the show address this in one way or another. "Bowl of Patience" is a video featuring interviews with Iranians about their difficulties making ends meet under conditions of unpredictable pricing. In a visual akin to the smoke and melting ice that lend entropic visuals to "Lullaby," here, droplets of water begin to fall upon the image, which is in fact being projected upon a metal bowl. Slowly the vessel fills, submerging and distorting the subjects' faces as their stories repeat. Nearby, Seraj presents a photograph of amply stocked baby formula — a scarce resource in Iran — in an American drug store, where one carton has been wrapped in the Iranian banknotes.

But then there are works that offer no ready-to-hand interpretations: a photograph of the ornately tiled tomb of the Persian poet Hafez, forced partly out of frame by a splendid moon competing for center space; a diptych video of the artist digging a hole in one feed, filling it in the other, placed alongside a vile of dirt from the ancient city of Persepolis. In yet another video, the artist explores her old primary school in Dehkadeh, now abandoned and in disrepair, and aids a trapped bird. These works suggest that Seraj may indeed not be only concerned with making a political statement, but also with reflecting on her own transnational identity, which exists somewhere between Iran and North America — somewhere sublunar, amid the manifold valences of the world.

Sublunar runs through June 30 at Martina }{ Johnston Gallery (1201 Sixth St., Berkeley). 510-558-0993 or MartinaJohnston.org.

— Alex Bigman

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery. "Threads of Creativity" A group show featuring works by Lisa Solomon, Sonya Prina, Carol Larson, Kate Lusnak, Bob Shaw, Sean Haas, Donna Bugay, and Chris Jennings. Opening reception: June 21, 6-8pm. June 20-July 21. Free. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Au Coquelet Café. "Berkeley's Woodland Spirits" Fine art photographer Gary Noodt displays his photos of Berkeley spirits of Aquatic Park. Through July 15. Free. 2000 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-0433. AuCoquelet.com.

Bancroft Library. "Voices of California Agriculture" An exhibition highlighting photographer [illegible] and geographer Paul Starrs, "California Agriculture Archive" at the centre of Bancroft historical holdings on agriculture in California. Berkeley reception: Thursday, Apr. 25, 5-7pm. Through July 31. Free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Bancroft.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Central Arts Passage. "Print, Print, Print" Highlighting the physical and artistic interaction of [illegible] print mediums. Exploring the works of fourteen artists. Follow up exhibition night called "The Past" on Wednesday, June 26, 6-8pm. Through Aug. 29. Free. 2180 Center St., Berkeley.

Berkeley Public Library, Central. [illegible] "Through of a Mysterious Truth" Photographs by [illegible] Zamanpoor, exploring the relationship between the soil and its environment. Through Aug. 4. Free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Bolt Gallery and Shop. "Chasing [illegible]" An exhibition showcasing the work of FELA on Broadway by [illegible]. Through July 13. 1427 Broadway, Oakland. 510-473-9919. [illegible].com.

Museum of Paradise Gallery. "Catholic Marriage" With artwork by Michelle Finch, Nigel Sussman, and David Fitzgerald. Through June 29. Free. 2314 [illegible] St., Oakland. [illegible].com.

Castle in the Air. Chet Pennington Paintings by Bay Area artist Chet Pennington, who passed away earlier this year. Through June 30. Free. 1805 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-204-9801. CastleInTheAir.biz.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. "A Function of Land" Wax encaustics on panel by artist Sabine Reckewell. Through July 23. Free. **"Terrariums"** Sculptures and installations by Madhvi Anvekar. Through July 23. Free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

CG Gallery. "The Magnolias of Art" A juried show of over 20 local Bay Area artists [illegible] imagery and local [illegible]. Reception: June 20, 5-9pm. June 29-July 13. Free. 4135 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-759-2535. CGGallery.org.

Classic Cars West. "At the End of Time, Where We Began" A group show featuring photographer Christopher Fuh, [illegible], Lutheia Warner, and multimedia artist [illegible]. Daily. Free. 411 26th St., Oakland. 415-851-1135. ClassicCarsWest.com.

Creative Growth Art Center. "40 Years. Dan Miller. Judith Scott" Presenting new works by two of the Studio's acclaimed artists, Dan Miller and Judith Scott, in celebration of its 40th anniversary. Through July 25. Free. 355 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2340. CreativeGrowth.org.

Crucible Engine Gallery. "Separate Kingdom" The photographs of [illegible] Bosworth and Chris Duncan, displaying three years' worth of road trips to the abandoned and forgotten areas of the Mojave Desert, Inland Empire, and Salton Sea. Berkeley reception: June 22, 6-10pm. June 22-July 7. Free. 499 Embarcadero Ave., Bldg. #5, Oakland. CrucibleEngine.org.

David Brower Center. "Alone Together" Twenty local artists explore living in a world that privileges [illegible] at a [illegible]. Through Aug. 30. Free. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

Downtown Berkeley. Oakland Fine Arts Fair Featuring works from more than 200 fine arts and crafts exhibitors, Italian street painting, live entertainment, kids activities, and food and beverages for sale. Sat., June 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., June 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 626-458-4250. [illegible].com.

Frank Bette Center. "On the Bay" New photographs by Fred Lago. Through June 29. Free. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Pavilion of East Asian Studies. "The Double of Weaving of Door" A selection of [illegible] works in silk, paper and other fibers dyed and woven, work and [illegible] and personal works. Through Sept. 10. Free. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-8134. IEAS.berkeley.edu.

Interface Gallery. "Just Make Something" Featuring [illegible] and the Popular Workshop (Andy Haugland and Nate Hooper). Each curatorial team and [illegible] to create one limited [illegible] object. Through June 20, 4-10 p.m. Free. 486 49th St., Oakland. InterfaceArtGallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery, Berkeley City College. "City Through Student Art Show" An art show featuring works from student artists at Berkeley City College. Through Aug. 31. Free. 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2800. BCC-Berkeley.edu.

Johansson Projects. "Trace Artifice" Featuring photographs by Gary Underwood and sculptures and installations by [illegible]. Through July 13. Free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

[illegible] MetroCenter. "Fluid" New paintings by Judith White [illegible]. Through July 31. Free. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-817-5700. MTC.ca.gov.

Joyce Gordon Gallery. "Tales" An exhibition that partners visual and spoken word in order to deepen the art of storytelling. Seven short [illegible] by author Blanca Gordon, are translated into the mediums of collage, mixed media, sculpture works and photography. Artist's talk: June 22, 1-4pm. Through June 29. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Julia's [illegible] A Tea [illegible] Mostly Mexico. Paintings, prints, and photographs [illegible]. Through July 3. Free. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2895. [illegible].com.

K Gallery. "Small Worlds" A collection of scaled down and miniatured works displaying a variety of rendering techniques ranging from collage to [illegible] and ink. Opening reception: July 12, 7-9pm. Through Aug. 31. Free. 2513 [illegible] Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. [illegible].org.

Kala Art Institute Gallery. "Freedom of Expression" Co-Curated by Peter Selz and Sue Kubly. *Freedom of Expression* is a survey of Chagoya's artwork from the past thirty years, including large [illegible] and codex drawings, prints, [illegible] and three-dimensional objects. Through July 6. Free. **Enrique Chagoya Panel Discussion** A discussion panel including Enrique Chagoya, Artist & Professor of Art at Stanford University; Robert Flynn Johnson, Chief Curator Emeritus, Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; Paul J. Karlstrom, Former Regional Director, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution; Moira Roth, [illegible] of Art History, Mills College; and Peter Selz, Founding Director, Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive. Sat., June 22, 4-6 p.m. Free. 2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

Krowswork. "Headquake" An [illegible] solo exhibition by Oakland-based artist Sasha Kelley depicting [illegible] within [illegible] the Bay Area. Through July 13. Free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-229-7031. Krowswork.com.

La Peña Cultural Center. "Wonderland: Paradise [illegible]" A photo exhibit by artist [illegible], showcasing the [illegible] Xi'an, China, to [illegible]. Through July 30. Free. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles. "Mourning Mourns Her" Sentimentality and sorrow in [illegible] from 1800 to 1920. Through Aug. 1. Free. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life. "Sound Objects" This exhibit investigates the role of objects that emit sound during synagogue rituals and everyday objects, [illegible] manuscripts, and photographs. Through June 28. **"Through the Eyes of [illegible]"** A fragmented narrative about [illegible]: A literary installation by Moira Roth. Tuesdays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through June 28. Free. 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-643-2526. Magnes.org.

Manna Gallery. "Myths and Mass Stories" Oil paintings on canvas by Wayne Armstrong. Through June 29. Free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-292-2336. MannaGallery.com.

Mercury 20 Gallery. "Art of Atlas" In Jane Marti's new solo show, the central piece is a 10-foot tall stack of reclaimed objects, [illegible] paper carved and a spinal form. Through June 29. Free. **"Pinned"** New portraits by Julianne Watson Sterling. Through June 29. Free. **"Stones They Told Me"** A series of panel and [illegible] drawings by Judy Gordon, [illegible] to merge reality and artistic imagery. Through June 29. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-418-7716. Mercury20Gallery.com.

[illegible]. "Mc: The Moment" [illegible] re-opens its doors with Art, music and

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MUSIC LINE-UP

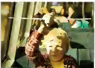
June 9	Blues THIS OLD BAND
June 16	Dixieland Jazz SPIRIT OF 29
June 23	Indonesian Gamelan
June 30	Jazz MIKE SWEETLAND
July 7	World Music USA GRACIANO
July 7	Jazz CRAIG BROWNING
July 21	Indonesian Gamelan
July 28	Jazz Richard GREIG
Aug 4	Jazz MADISON BAND
Aug 11	Blues, Folk, & Light Rock WINSTON ANDREWS
Aug 18	Hawaiian JIM RAMANO

Aug 25 and on TBA

PICKS

Friends, Family Neighbors

As [illegible] National Security Administration's recently exposed dragnet system is, the proliferation of unmanned drones for surveillance and military strike is a perhaps more chilling aspect of what counts as normal today. In a small exhibition at Royal Nonesuch Gallery, David Gregory Wallace presents several works that reflect on prevailing drone narratives, each wedding a sense of childhood innocence (or vulnerability) with one of looming dread. In a window piece that sticks out nightly, a projector casts a series of photographic portraits of the artist's friends, colleagues, and loved ones upon the gallery window while a rotating mobile positioned in between casts moving shadows of birds and one large predator drone upon the images. The main piece of the show is a short film that follows a young boy as he guides a toy drone around the East Bay. The interspersed footage of actual drone strikes — which the Department of Defense posts as propaganda material on its website — is jarring, but it is the child's sense [illegible] that leaves the strongest impression. *Friends, Family Neighbors* runs through June 30 at Royal Nonesuch Gallery (4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 415-652-1603 or *RoyalNonesuchGallery.com*. — *Alex Bigman*



Still from David Gregory Wallace's "Predator."

performances. Through June 30. free. 221 17th St., Oakland. 510-395-3440, Tumblr.com/blog/MOCDA.

NIAD Art Center: "Mad, Heavy" Polished from NIAD's recesses [illegible]. Through June 28. free. "**School Papers**" Pennsylvania artist Douglas Witmer creates abstract sculptures using school grade paper, influenced by the [illegible] drawings in India. Through June 28. free. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

[illegible]: "Signals" Oakland-based artist Simon Pyle confronts ideas around preservation and loss in the digital age. Opening reception June 22, 6-9pm. June 22-Aug. 5. free. 2238 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Oakland Mobile: [illegible] Art Walk With art, entertainment, and refreshments. Participating businesses showcase art works in storefronts. Third Thursday of every month. 6-9 p.m. free. [illegible] Splash Pad Park, Oakland Grand and Lakeshore avenues, Oakland.

PHOTO: "Signs of Life" A solo exhibition of photographer Everett [illegible] who creates works without cameras, lenses, or computers. Artist's talk: June 29, 3pm. Through July 13. free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-451-5448. PHOTOGalleryOakland.com.

Point Richmond: Third Thursday Art Walk With art, activities and refreshments around at art galleries, gift boutiques, and restaurants throughout historic Richmond Point Richmond. Third Thursday of every month, 6-9 p.m. PointRichmondArtCollective.org. Point Richmond.

Pro Arts Gallery: "Homesteading" Mitra Fabian uses thousands of feet of receipt paper to create an installation [illegible] movement, and pattern. Through June 27. free. "**Lobbyscapes**" A new series of works by Phil McGaughy. Through Sept. 27. free. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Rhythmix Cultural Works: "Life Aquatic" An exhibit exploring the "serenity of land" in the face of climate change. Through June 30. free. 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

Richmond Art Center: "[illegible]" Paintings by [illegible]. Through Aug. 23. free. **Richmond Art Center's Annual Members' Show** Showcasing the array of media and talent by over 100 artists from Richmond Art Center's creative community. Through Aug. 23. free. "**[illegible]**" Primarily featuring contents by Richmond artist, Jim [illegible], who has been [illegible]. Opening reception: Saturday July 20, 5-7pm. Through Aug. 23. free. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. RichmondArtCenter.org.

Royal NoneSuch Gallery: "Friends, Family, Neighbors" A solo exhibition by David Gregory Wallace reflecting on the military/security industrial complex and the post-9/11 War on Terror. Through June 30. free. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-652-3040. RoyalNoneSuchGallery.com.

SLATE contemporary: SLATE Oakland California: SLATE's summer group show, featuring [illegible] work by some of their favorite artists. Through Aug. 17. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-355-0050. SlateartandDesign.com.

Subterranean Arthouse: "The art of what we can't see" The text-based works of Anna Wolfe-Pauly and Erin Colleen Johnson. Opening reception: June 21, 7-9pm. June 21-July 5. free. 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. SubterraneanArthouse.org.

Swarm Studios + Gallery: "What Art I?" A selection of new paintings and sculptures by Mathew [illegible]. Through July 20. free. "**All Millennials in the Past**" New works merging the dynamic, often polar worlds of science and art by Oakland artist Chris Pew. Through July 20. free. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

Townsend Center: "Palace Square 1968" Photos by Pavel [illegible], a San Francisco-based artist and educator. Through June 24. free. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9670. TownsendCenter.berkeley.edu.

Traywick Contemporary: "Donate and Accumulation" A group exhibition featuring the work of Inga Dorosz, Kim [illegible], David Hought, Liliane Guyot, [illegible] Lynch, Christy Matson and Christine M. [illegible]. Through Aug. 3. free. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1794. Traywick.com.

Uptown District: Saturday Stroll A weekly component of Art Murmur but with fewer festivities and more focus on the galleries. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 19th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Vessel Gallery: "Landscapes: [illegible]" Artwork by Cheri [illegible], Donald Farnsworth, Christy [illegible], [illegible] Mari Marks, Cyrus Tilton, and Sandy [illegible]. Through July 6. free. 471 25th St., Oakland.

MUSEUMS

BAM/PFA: "Ballet of Heads: The Figure in the Collection" Bringing together paintings, sculptures, and works on paper that demonstrate the inexhaustible variety and texture of the human form in art. Through Aug. 25. "**Rectangles**" A collection of contents by the influential abstract Expressionist artist, Hans Hofmann. Through Sept. 1. "**Robot Kaleidoscope**" A new interactive seating structure in BAM's large atrium space. Gallery E, contents by the San Francisco-based Ann Rebar. Through Dec. 22. free with museum admission. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: [illegible] in the Land of Snows** Sculptures and paintings from Tibet. Through June 30. "**[illegible] / MATRIX 248**" Showcasing the work of the New York-based artist, which ranges from eighteenth-century [illegible] works from the history of art. Through July 14. "**Deities, Demons, and Teachers of Tibet, Nepal, and India**" A rotating display of works by anonymous Hindu, Nepalese, and Tibetan artists. June 26-Aug. 18. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Mills College Art Museum: "West of Center: Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977" An exhibit highlighting the diverse range of artists in the sixties and seventies based in the American West who broke the barriers between art and lifestyle and embraced the new, hybrid sensibilities of the countercultural movement. Opening reception: June 12, 6-8pm. Through Sept. 1. free. [illegible] the 17th to the 20th centuries, the objects in this exhibit relate to [illegible] and the spoken Word, with additional objects focused on health, [illegible]. Through Sept. 1. free. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164. MCAM.Mills.edu.

Oakland Museum of California: "Summoning Ghosts: The Art of Hung Liu" The first-ever retrospective of Hung Liu, one of the most significant Chinese contemporary artists working today. Through June 30. "**Hard Times in the OC**" This installation in the Gallery of California History co-curated with faculty and students at California State University Fullerton focuses on the effects of the 2008 recession in Orange County. Through Apr. 27, 2014. free with museum admission. "**Inspiration Points: Masterpieces of California Landscape**" Works by Ansel Adams, Thomas Hill, [illegible], William Keith, Arthur Mathews, Richard Misrach, Thomas Moran, and more. Through Aug. 11. "**[illegible] Groove**" A new exhibit of 20 large-scale color photographs by Beth Yarnelle Edwards focusing on the suburbs of Silicon Valley in 1998. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through June 30, 2013. **Oakland Workshop: Winged Ambassadors** Through an introduction to [illegible] materials, talks by [illegible] scientists, an exploration of the new Gallery of California Natural Sciences, and a full-day [illegible] trip to the Farallon Islands led by a marine biologist, participants will engage in a drawings [illegible] issues. Wed., June 26, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Thu., June 27, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland
Art Murmur Galleries

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UPTOWN GALLERIES

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary
480 23rd Street

Classic Cars West
411 26th Street

Creative Growth
355 24th Street

FM Gallery
483 25th Street

Krowswork Gallery
480 23rd Street

Mama Gallery
473 25th Street

Mercury 20
475 25th Street

Oakopolis / The Moon
447 25th Street

PHOTO
473 25th Street

Roscoe Ceramic Gallery
473 25th Street

Shadravan's Art Gallery
2435 Telegraph Avenue

SLATE contemporary
473 25th Street

Studio Quercus
385 26th Street

Vessel Gallery
471 25th Street

The Wall Gallery
473 25th Street

Warehouse 416
416 26th Street

DOWNTOWN GALLERIES

Betti Ono Gallery
1427 Broadway

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th Street

Pro Arts
150 Frank H Ogawa Plaza

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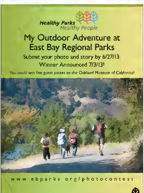
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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

[illegible] Comedy Night A weekly comedy show hosted by [illegible] and Marv. Fridays, 8 p.m. $10. MLK Cafe, 3890 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-450-0600.

The Last Laugh With [illegible] and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. TheLastLaugh.com. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-251-1840. PanTheater.com.

Layover Comedy Mike Spangelman hosts around a half dozen Bay Area comedians. Tuesdays, 8:30-10 p.m. Free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for fresh new and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m. one-drink minimum. Continental Club, 1658 12th St., Oakland. 510-813-5813. ContinentalComedy.com

Margo [illegible]: "Pride Baby" Margo Gomez (named "Best Comic" in 2012 by *The SF Bay Guardian* and *SF Weekly*) discusses topics like lesbian [illegible], growing up as a gay baby, hypothetically dating Jodie Foster, rainbow fever and public nudity on Castro Street. Fri., June 21, 8 p.m., $15. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org

Stocking Comedy Open mic comedy night hosted by [illegible] Patterson. Sign-ups at 8. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. Free. Stork Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6174. StorkClubOakland.com

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by LeRoy Stanfield. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 8 p.m. CoBabyProductions.com. Island Paradise Club, 1436 Webster St., Alameda. 510-866-3315. IslandParadiseClub.com

The [illegible] Story With weekly improv comedy. Additional show preceding show at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $10-$12. Pan Theater, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 415-744-1118. PanTheater.com.

LIVE VARIETY

[illegible] Burlesque: Kitty Kitty Meow! Featuring four of the famous [illegible] most impressive performances, including [illegible] new [illegible] in human [illegible]. Wed., June 26, 7:30 p.m. Thu., June 27, 2:30 p.m., Fri., June 28, 7:30 p.m., Sat., June 29, 7:30 p.m. $45. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco. 415-346-6000. TheFillmore.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

American Night Richard Montoya's comedic and heartwarming exploration of the immigrant experience. Check CalShakes.org for special event details. Tuesdays-Sundays. Continues through June 23. $35-$48. Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Bread By A new Shotgun Players premiere, about the thrilling [illegible] and dangers of human cloning. Wednesdays-Sundays. Continues through June 23. $17-$30. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Closer Than Ever The hit musical revue by David Shire and Richard Maltby, Jr. which debuted in a revival Off-Broadway at the York Theatre in 2012. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sun., June 30, 2 p.m. Continues through June 30. $22. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Dear Elizabeth *Dear Elizabeth* features the beautiful and bittersweet friendship between Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell. Through July 7. $29-$48. Roda Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

"Empowering Women" New 10 minute comedies [illegible], rehearsed, stage-managed and performed entirely by Female Professional Comedy Improv Artists and their colleagues within 36 hours. Mon., June 24, 8-10 p.m. $25. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

George Gershwin Alone The remarkable music of America's favorite composer comes alive—along with insight into his brief and brilliant life. Tuesdays-Sundays. Continues through July 7. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

The Medea Hypothesis A new play modernizing Euripides' classic *Medea*, by Marion Berges. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through June 23. $15-$28. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

[illegible] First produced in Iran 11 years ago by Mohammad Yaghoubi, directed by [illegible]. The play will "take you to the heart of Iran and the everyday struggles of its people." In Farsi only. Sat., June 22, 8 p.m.; Sun., June 23, 8 p.m.; Fri., June 28, 8 p.m.; Sat., June 29, 8 p.m.; Sun., June 30, 2 & 8 p.m. $20. Central Stage, 5221 Central Ave., Richmond.

Shakespeare's Henry IV Staged Reading. A seated staged reading of Shakespeare's *Henry IV* directed by [illegible]. Mon., June 24, 7:30-10 p.m., $12. Berkeley Arts Festival, 2133 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Tell It On Tuesday Storytelling, solo performance, and live music in one place with a rotating cast of performers. Last Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., $8-$15. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org

This Is How It Goes Closing Aurora's 21st season is the Bay Area premiere of Neil LaBute's dark, edgy comic drama, directed by Aurora Associate Company Artistic Director Tom Ross. Through July 21. $32-$60. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

PICKS

Dear Elizabeth

It is a bold move to base a play's script entirely from excerpted letters. After all, there are things we simply cannot or do not put to the page — even when the recipient is among our dearest friends. Still, this is the approach that Sarah Ruhl takes in *Dear Elizabeth*, her story of the thirty-year relationship between two American poets, Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell, as told through their actual correspondence. The play exalts the rarified beauty of epistolary prose while unfurling a story of two individuals whose large intellects and equally formidable pathologies reportedly undercut a palpable romantic longing. For all its surprising successes, *Dear Elizabeth* does succumb to certain expected difficulties. The couple's crucial but unspoken sentiments tend to arrive in the form of heavy-handed symbolism. Lowell, despite being by most biographical accounts a fascinating neurotic, generally appears as even-keeled as the letter-writing persona he so carefully maintained. At the same time, this kind of discrepancy is what makes the letter such an intriguing dramatic vehicle, and *Dear Elizabeth* such a rare treat. *— Alex Bigman*

Through July 7 at Berkeley Repertory Theater (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $17-$89. 510-647-2949 or BerkeleyRep.org

The Medea Hypothesis

After [illegible] a large [illegible] tragedy [illegible] contemporary Manhattan and it should hardly come as a surprise when the result turns out to be dynamite soap opera — though of a decidedly daytime variety. In Marion Berges' *The Medea Hypothesis*, now playing at Central Works (Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave.), Euripides' famously infanticidal character takes the form of Em, a busy executive who ranks perhaps a little short of Mom of the Year. Abandoned by her husband for a younger woman and attached to an ominously [illegible] trigger-happy assistant, Em finds her thoughts becoming murderous with baffling speed — but not before the tryst with a hunky plumber and a series of bizarre, improbable, and often philosophical video-chat dates with her own father-in-law-to-be, a shady Eastern European businessman named Carl. Running through this pulpy melodrama is a poignant strain about a mother losing her sanity while perhaps regaining her compassion. Mostly it's a mess, though, and a first-rate one at that. *— A.B.*

Through June 23. $28. 510-558-1381 or CentralWorks.org

The Medea Hypothesis
Jim Norrena

LECTURES&LIT

LECTURES

Backpacking Basics An overview of planning, preparation, and gear. Thu., June 20, 7-8:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Botanical Latin Look at some common Latin and Greek roots for plant names and botanical terms, and use these simple rules of thumb to pronounce plant names with confidence. Register by calling 510-643-2755 or by emailing GardenPrograms@berkeley.edu. Sat., June 22, 9 a.m.-noon, $30. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

"Codornices Village and the African American Migration to Berkeley" Codornices Village, which is now UC Village Married Student Housing, began in World War II as housing for shipyard workers in Richmond. Part of the "Berkeley at War" lecture series. Sat., June 22, 2 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

"Journeys: Stories of Aha! Moments" Hear from the Bay Area's leading changemakers and social entrepreneurs, reliving and retelling their Aha! moments. Thu., June 20, 6-8:30 p.m., $10 Berkeley, $12 at the door. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0900. BrowerCenter.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Al Young California Poet Laureate Emeritus Al Young, along with four other poets, will present "Poetry Past and Present." Interested audience members will be allowed up to five minutes to read a poem of their own. Sun., June 23, 2-4 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Amy Lynn Reed Discussing her new book Crazy Love. June 25, 3 p.m., free. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Art from Writers' Society Writer Carl Crooks sustains weekly writing and performance workshops designed to generate new material and create a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. CarlCrooks.com. The 25th Street Collective, 477 25th St., Oakland. 510-384-3145. 25thStreetCollective.com.

Daisy Birkley Reading from her new book, When You Were Here. Thu., June 20, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Daniel James Brown Brown reads from *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*. Thu., June 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Ewan Lichtenberg Reads from his book, *Hair Dresser on Fire*. Wed., June 26, 6-7:30 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Darick Robertson The author of acclaimed satirical comics *Transmetropolitan* and *The Boys* talks about his work. Part of the Berkeley Comic Arts Festival. Thu., June 20, 5:30-7 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, South Branch, 1901 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-981-6260.

Ed Hardy and Joel Selvin Celebrating Ed Hardy's memoir, *Wear Your Dreams: My Life in Tattoos*. Sun., June 23, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

JeGo Presenting his book of photography, *Intimate Portrait of Nature*. Fri., June 21, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Khaled Hosseini Reading from his new book, *And the Mountains Echoed*. Sun., June 23, 4:30 p.m., free. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

Kim Wong Keltner Reading from her new book, *Tiger Babies Strike Back: How I Was Raised by a Tiger Mom but Could Not Be Turned to the Dark Side*. Sat., June 22, 3 p.m., free. Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2066 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2350. AsiaBookCenter.com.

Marc Weingarten and Tyson Cornell Discussing their book, *Yes Is the Answer* and *Other Prog-Rock Tales*. Thu., June 20, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Meg Donohue Reading from her book, *All the Summer Girls*. Fri., June 21, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Memoir-Writing Workshop A workshop for people of all ages and backgrounds. Students write personal essays about the events, people, and places in their lives. Led by San Francisco Author Frances Lefkowitz. Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. Continues through June 25, free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Poeti Della Notte Local poets Nina Lindsay, Mary Peyton, Jonathan Siegel, Laura Brennan, and Trevor Calvert will read to a soundtrack provided by Janae Benson and their musician Garrett Pierce. Tue., June 25, 8-10 p.m., free. Pizzaiolo, 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-4808. PoetiDellaNotte.com.

Moe's Poetry Night A Young Mobile reading with Chris Hoffman and Alex Shaub. Thu., June 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

Ramsey Hootman and Lisa Brackmann The author of *Courting Greta* and the author of *Hour of the Rat* share their respective books. Mon., June 24, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Rebecca Solnit The award-winning author discusses her new book *The Faraway Nearby*. Wed., June 26, 7-8:30 p.m., free. Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Dr., Oakland. MPCFamily.org.

Scott Seligman Berkeley alum discusses his book, *The First Chinese American: The Remarkable Life of Wong Chin Foo*. Sun., June 23, 3 p.m., free. Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2066 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2350. AsiaBookCenter.com.

Shakespeare [illegible] A participatory reading with Lois Potter, author of *Shakespeare: A Critical Biography*. Mon., June 24, 6-7:30 p.m., $20. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Uniquely Yours: A World Workshop Oakland Reading Workshop Author Peggy Simmons leads a workshop for writers of all levels, experiences, and genres, ages 18 and up. Drop-ins welcome; long-term participation encouraged. Fourth Sunday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m., $1-$25. GreatWednesdayWriters.org. Park World Sessions Collective, 2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-233-0171. WPSCollective.com.

University Press Books Poetry Berkeley With readings by Farnoosh Fathi, Kristen Gleason, and Heather June Gibbons. Thu., June 20, 6-8 p.m., free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Fixit Clinic Bring your broken, non-functioning electronics, appliances, computers, toys, etc. for assessment, disassembly, and possible repair. Sat., June 22, noon, free. Oakland Public Library Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

"Managing Healthcare Expenses in Retirement" With local wealth advisor George Nauert of Morgan Stanley. Mon., June 24, 6 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

"Yes, Seniors Can Get Around Without Driving" Gray Panther Steve Geller explains the ins and outs of AC Transit, City CarShare, Paratransit, BART fare vouchers, and more. Wed., June 26, 1:30 p.m., North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

PICKS

Rebecca Solnit

Long-time San Francisco resident Rebecca Solnit is one of those fine gifted essayists who can seamlessly link together issues as disparate as the environment, politics, art, and — her particular favorite — place, all without giving you any indication that these things aren't usually discussed so easily in the same breath. Her new book, *The Faraway Nearby*, is the follow-up to her much-beloved compendium of essays, *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*, and focuses loosely on the theme of storytelling. Solnit weaves together fairy tales, tales of arctic explorers, potent anecdotes from her own life, and more, but it's the larger picture she creates that's truly powerful. Join the author as she discusses her book at Montclair Presbyterian Church (5701 Thornhill Dr., Oakland). — *Azeen Ghorayshi*

Wednesday, June 26, 7-8:30 p.m., free. 510-339-1131 or MPCFamily.org

Poeti Della Notte

What better way to enjoy an evening of poetry than by pairing it with equally transcendent food, wine, music, and company? On Tuesday, Pizzaiolo (5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) will host the first of its three-part summer series in its enchanted garden patio. The Poeti Della Notte kickoff will feature five local poets reading over a soundtrack played by Janae Benson. Local musician Garrett Pierce will also perform, and guests are invited to purchase dolci and drinks and bites from the kitchen. — *A.G.*

Tuesday, June 25, 8-10 p.m., free. 510-652-4808 or PoetiDellaNotte.Wordpress.com

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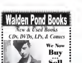

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The East Coast flavors in the Reuben were pitch-perfect.

Chris Duffey

SUCKING UP EVERY BIT OF MARROW

The Oakland sandwich shop showcases whole-animal cookery to outstanding effect.

By Luke Tsai

At Marrow, the latest meat-centric sandwich shop to open in Oakland, there's a big stack of books on the counter about nose-to-tail eating and the finer points of how to butcher a cow — volumes whose titles read like some incantation or a recipe for witch's brew: *Odd Bits, Fat, Bone*. The dominant decor feature is a handwritten account of the restaurant's sourcing philosophy, so you can read about the animals' lineage and their lifestyle — the fact, for instance, that the Devil's Gulch Ranch piglets stay with their mothers until they're weaned, after which point they enjoy a diet of whole milk, whole-grain bread, and tortillas, or that the 1 Brand cattle procreate naturally, in the manner that God intended.

Practitioners of whole-animal cookery believe that if humans are going to kill animals for their meat, it's only right to use up every last "odd bit," to let no part go to waste. Marrow's owner, Jon Kosorek, isn't the first chef to adopt this philosophy. But he might be the first (in Oakland, anyway) to open a restaurant promising that every piece of meat — every soup bone and scrap of bacon — will come from a whole animal, dismantled on site. And I don't know anyone else who's doing this in a tiny shoebox of a sandwich shop with barely a dozen seats and just enough room in back for Kosorek to break a cow down into all its delicious component parts.

Kosorek was the proprietor of Jon's Street Eats, one of the first new-school gourmet food trucks to launch in the Bay Area. He sold the truck in 2011, and after a stint in wine country came back to Oakland wanting to open a restaurant with a simple menu but with whole animals as the foundation. "I got kind of sick of seeing boxes of parts," Kosorek said.

Jon's Street Eats was popular because Kosorek served fancy, restaurant-quality food made with integrity but packaged in a familiar format: a cheesesteak, a breakfast sandwich, a bag of fries. He hasn't changed his approach at Marrow.

So one morning I ordered a grilled pork terrine, for which Kosorek braises a pig's head and hocks and picks off all the meat (jowl, tongue, ears, cheese) before pressing it into a mold. Technically, it was a headcheese, but if he called it that, people might be less inclined to buy it, which would be a shame. Spooned over grilled toast along with a 64-degree egg (the yolk creamy and just barely runny), it was one of the best breakfasts I'd eaten in months.

The whole-animal ethos dictates the entire menu. It's why a corned beef Reuben is one of the restaurant's staples: The corning process keeps the meat shelf-stable long enough to be served up one sandwich at a time. It's why Kosorek dry-ages steaks and stuffs sausages — why he practices the obscure and wholesome arts of curing and preservation. And it's why, aside from a handful of recurring standards, everything on the menu rotates depending on what animal Kosorek is focused on, and which cuts he needs to use up.

Mostly he serves sandwiches — meaty, meaty sandwiches. The Reuben was gloriously saucy but well balanced. Kosorek, a transplanted New Yorker, makes the dressing and sauerkraut in house and buys marble rye from a local baker. But the East Coast flavors were pitch-perfect, as was the meat itself: moist, luxurious cubes (not sliced), with just a whisper of smoke.

A porchetta special was the best kind of grease bomb: the rendered pork fat soaking all the way through the sandwich's wax paper wrapping. Kosorek takes the pig's torso off the bone, rolls it up with fennel, thyme, and assorted spices, slow-roasts the whole thing, then chills it and slices it thin. The texture of the meat — stretchy, fatty, and tender — was divine.

It isn't surprising that such a temple of meat would serve an outstanding patty melt or exceptionally savory thin-cut beef fat fries. But what struck me was the delicacy with which Kosorek handles the dishes that are less meat-focused. A King Salmon Cobb salad featured no bacon whatsoever, in spite of its name. Instead, there was subtly smoky roasted salmon and goat cheese — a play on cream cheese and lox — served with asparagus, roasted beets, a boiled egg, and thick slices of avocado. All in all, a surprisingly light and vegetable-centered dish. A side of grilled Brentwood corn on the cob was a nice play on Mexican elote, topped with grated Grana Padano and chili flakes for an explosion of flavors — spicy, savory, and sweet. And Kosorek's take on potato salad was an inspired combination of crispy fingerlings, arugula, and a preserved-lemon dressing.

Of course, there's a cost associated with eating sustainably raised animals. While many items are reasonably priced — a refreshing seasonal *agua fresca* for $2, the aforementioned pork terrine breakfast plate for $5 — a sandwich, side, and drink at Marrow will cost nearly twenty bucks — probably more than what some might be willing to spend on a grab-and-go lunch. Is it worth it?

If you're mainly interested in the food, it is. The whole-animal philosophy appealed to my conscience, and the big hunks of meat satiated my hedonistic id. Mostly, I was impressed by the kitchen's restraint. Nothing was overly salted or spiced, and the cooking methods tended toward the simple and the old school. It's not health food, certainly, but you get a sense that the ingredients are treated with respect.

There was perhaps no better illustration of this than Kosorek's roasted marrow bones — an occasional special and, of course, the restaurant's namesake. The preparation — bones roasted in an oven — couldn't be simpler, and there was little adornment beyond a bit of salsa verde and a spoonful of sea salt for sprinkling. But I'd be hard-pressed to think of a more decadent dish. I scraped out the quivering pink and brown bits and spread them on toast, and when that was gone I did what Thoreau advised: I picked up the bones and sucked out every last drop. ●

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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510-251-1111
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Fri. 5-9 p.m.
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Sample Menu

Seared Pork Terrine	$5
Reuben	$12
King Salmon Cobb Salad	$12
Roasted Marrow	$10
Crispy Potato Salad	$4

WHAT THE FORK

AT OAKLAND'S HUTCH, SOUTHERN-STYLE GRITS ARE KING

Plus Grease Box lands a brick-and-mortar home in Temescal, The Star gears up to open in the Grand Lake neighborhood, and more.

By Luke Tsai

When chef David King surveyed the Bay Area restaurant scene, he was blown away by how many restaurants were serving glammed-up versions of mac 'n' cheese — mac 'n' cheese with shaved truffles, mac 'n' cheese with lobster, mac 'n' cheese with chèvre and non-traditional cheeses. In Oakland, there's even an entire restaurant, Homeroom, dedicated to variations on a theme of elbow-pasta in creamy sauce.

King, a native of Memphis, Tennessee — where mac 'n' cheese is liked well enough — couldn't help thinking that not enough love was being given to another staple of the American South: grits.

When he started planning a new restaurant in Uptown Oakland, he thought: "Why can't I have three, four, or five grits dishes on the menu and try to promote grits as the new mac 'n' cheese?"

Last Friday, King opened that restaurant, Hutch Bar and Kitchen (2022 Telegraph Ave.), with a menu heavy on Southern staples: raw oysters, American whiskey, and — yes — several different dishes where grits play the starring role.

King, whose most recent gig was as the opening chef at San Francisco's Southpaw BBQ, buys stone-ground grits from Delta Grind, a Mississippi-based company. He said he likes his grits creamy and thick (thicker than, say, risotto) and very, very cheesy. His menu features shrimp and grits — probably the most well-known grits dish outside of the South — as well as a grits dish that features fried catfish (a traditional Memphis pairing) and another that pairs grits with slow-cooked veal shank and a rich sherry-herb gravy. For a bar snack, he stuffs some of the grits with Benton's country ham and fries them up as croquettes — something along the lines of Italian *arancini*.

The restaurant's raw bar component pays tribute to boardwalk spots you'll find all along the Gulf Coast — the kinds of places in Alabama or on the Florida panhandle where, as a kid, King ate his first oysters during road trips with his grandfather Hutch, the restaurant's namesake. "[The oysters] had this viscous, gross allure," King recalled. "It's the kind of thing where you either like them or you don't, and I guess I liked them right away." Hutch's offerings will include one or two varieties of oysters, such as Miyagis and Kumamotos, each night.

Other notable menu items include bourbon-cured salmon, crawfish rémoulade, fried green tomatoes, and about sixty different kinds of whiskey. Instead of serving gumbo, which you can get at any number of restaurants, King decided to highlight rabbit Brunswick stew, a lesser-known — but equally homey — regional specialty featuring braised rabbit meat and a stew thickened not by a roux but by the natural starches from an assortment of vegetables.

For now, Hutch is open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Every Sunday from 5-9 p.m., there will be a prix-fixe menu served family-style. The first of these Sunday Suppers, which took place this past weekend, featured fried chicken, green beans, rice, gravy, and biscuits. King said he wants to keep these family-style dinners affordable — about $30 per person. Eventually, he'll add a short, ever-changing Sunday brunch menu, written on butcher paper each week.

Tidbits

Great news for fans of The Grease Box Mobile Kitchen's fried chicken and other gluten-free goodies: Owner Lizzy Boelter told What the Fork that she's signed the papers for a brick-and-mortar space in Oakland's Temescal district. Boelter said she needed to finalize a few details before announcing the restaurant's exact location, but the general plan is to open sometime in mid-July with coffee and pastries in the morning, sandwiches and fried chicken at lunch, and barbecue food at dinner.

The Star (3425 Grand Ave.), the new Little Star Pizza offshoot, is opening soon in Oakland's Grand Lake neighborhood — as early as this week, according to Diablo Dish. In addition to the cornmeal-crusted deep-dish pizzas that are Little Star's calling card, The Star will also offer an expanded list of appetizers and salads, a selection of East Coast deli-inspired sandwiches, and — a real boon to solo diners — personal pizzas, available in both deep dish and thin crust versions.

After three months of repairs and renovations following a March 8 fire that shut down the Berkeley institution, Chez Panisse (1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) is gearing up to reopen on Monday, June 24. A ritzy $1,000 to $2,500-a-head fundraiser dinner to benefit Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard Project is scheduled for June 21, but for those who don't have that kind of cash to drop, you can now schedule a reservation for the coming weeks. However, as of this printing, the first available table for two in the downstairs dining room listed on OpenTable was a 9 p.m. seating on July 8. So plan ahead accordingly.

Eater reports that Encuentro Cafe and Wine Bar (200 2nd St.), Oakland's only vegetarian wine-and-tapas bar, is moving to a new, larger space in the Jack London district at 2nd and Clay streets. The new incarnation of Encuentro will feature an expanded menu, including full entrées. Meanwhile, the original location will remain open — under a new name, however — as a wine-and-beer bar with a limited food menu. ■

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

American in Downtown Oakland and JLS

Cock-A-Doodle Cafe

719 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400. Packed with hipsters and a diverse crowd that fights hella Oakland Sunday brunch here is a party. No wonder: Blaine Arachigo's Victorian-storefront cafe serves up some of the city's brightest-tasting morning food — like ceviche Benedict with its roasted pepper-coconut sauce and sparkly hash of shrimp, tilapia, and mango. Lemon ricotta pancakes are dense and custardy while graham-cracker-crusted French toast is sponge-cake light. Stick with the a.m., though; the weekday lunch menu is on the clunky side. $-$$

Disco Volante

347 14th St., Oakland, 510-663-0271. This festive downtown nightspot restaurant serves an all-day bistro menu of intriguing California fusion creations like tender smoky pork ribs with spicy cabbage and fresh pineapple, and tacos stuffed with tempura avocado and jicama slaw, plus a daily-changing menu of dinnertime specials. The dense, chewy coffee flan is a weird and wonderful dessert, the beer list is impressive indeed, and the kitchen is open until at least midnight seven nights a week. $$

Flora

1900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-286-0100. Situated across the street from the Fox Theater in the ornate cobalt-blue Floral Depot building, Flora lures in a lunch and happy-hour crowd with its long glowing bar and simple sandwich menu. The cuisine is standard Californian, more predictable than revolutionary — which might surprise fans of its owners' other establishments, Doña Tomás and Tacubaya. Still, Flora has nailed the classics — particularly the tuna melt (lunch) and the grilled strip steak (dinner). $$-$$$

Full Reviews Online
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The Forge

66 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-3200. At Jack London Square pizzeria The Forge, the pizzas are more or less Neapolitan, but the rest of the menu is unapologetically American: no pastas, no salumi samplers, no plates of marinated olives. Instead, the kitchen puts out classed-up riffs on things like mozzarella sticks and buffalo wings, and the bar has eleven West Coast microbrews on tap. It's a simple but brilliant concept — a strictly American pizza restaurant. The pizzas are notable for their well-conceived combinations and flavorful, just-chewy-enough crust (based on a Tartine Bakery bread recipe). You can't go wrong with a classic Margherita. But the real fun of the restaurant lies in appetizers like smoked chicken wings, fried cheese curds (served with a long-simmered marinara sauce), and "potato skins" — tiny twice-baked potatoes that sit atop a pool of Taleggio cheese "wiz." $$-$$$

Home of Chicken and Waffles

444 Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-836-4446. The popular soul food restaurant's interior is tricked out with sparkly blue upholstery and shiny starburst lights. The menu lists every possible combination of chicken (fried or fried and smothered), waffles, greens, yams, cornbread, and black-eyed peas you can think of, each named after a family member (highlights: all the sides and the mile-high coconut cake). And yes, you're supposed to eat the chicken and waffles with syrup. $

Hopscotch

1915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-788-6217. At first glance, Hopscotch can seem like a weird combination of seemingly disparate elements: a retro Fifties diner aesthetic, a scotch-centric bar program, and, most importantly, Chef Kyle Itani's Northern California-inflected Asian fusion menu, which shares little in common with the heavy-handed old-school fusion cooking that was popular a decade ago. Instead, Itani creates dishes in which Japanese elements are incorporated with a dash of whimsy but also with precision and restraint: duck-fat potato chips with yuzu aioli, pâté with "nori-kraut" made in a traditional Japanese pickle press, or a burger topped with griddled beef tongue. Meanwhile despite the casual setting, the service — headed up by co-owner Jenny Schwarz — is one of the best and friendliest in town. $$-$$$

Luka's Taproom & Lounge

2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677. From lunch until last call, Luka's has it going on. Suited-up professionals, club kids, veterans, mean comfortably mix it up at this stylish bar, restaurant, and club. Channeling a California brasserie theme, the menu showcases Belgian beers, mussels, and frites — some of the best in Oakland. The creatively conceived entrées sometimes read better than they taste, but the cooks deliver on the basics, and it's hard to find anywhere else downtown where you can eat as well after nine. $$-$$$

Mua

2442 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-1100. Husband-and-wife team Hieuk and Sanju Dong preside over what, on a busy night, feels like the hottest party in Uptown. The 6,500-square-foot loft sprawls in an L-shape through most of the old Rim and Wheel building, a cavernous former garage. Is Mua a bar? Hieuk Dong's painting studio? A chillax zone for art happenings? A bit of all three, actually, and that's the problem. The food gets lost in all the boho clutter. The menu is a wide-ranging collection of small and slightly less-small plates, without much focus but with the kind of inattention to execution that can kill a cocktail buzz. Stick to the skinny fries and KFC-like fried chicken. $$-$$$

Picán

2295 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-1000. This striking yet sultry Uptown destination serves classic Southern cooking with an upscale California flare (lush, silky she-crab soup; fried chicken drizzled with truffle-infused organic honey; matchlessly tender barbecued ribs with peanut-jalapeño coleslaw; a towering root beer float with sassafras ice cream). The handsome setting is all high ceilings, earth tones, and Old South elegance, and the friendly bar pours the Bay Area's finest selection of single-barrel bourbons. $$$$

Plum

2214 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7586. Star chef Daniel Patterson's more casual, scaled-down neighborhood version of San Francisco's Coi serves up farm-fresh ingredients in unusual California-fusion combinations: deviled eggs with gooseberry-tarragon relish, oyster stew with parsley root and wheatgrass, broiled cauliflower with dandelion salsa verde. The execution doesn't always live up to the high concept, but the beef cheek/oxtail burger is sensational, the artichoke/chervil terrine is lush and delectable, and the white chocolate parfait with huckleberries is a dream. Strikingly dark, sleek setting; impressive wine list. $$$

Rico's Diner

400 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-8424. Owner and chief cook Rico Thomas rings all the changes on the traditional diner canon in a way that feels perfectly suited to his funky Oaksterdam locale — a satisfying update of the short-order genre that never feels forced or fancy. Classics such as corned beef hash (a chewy deconstructed

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Tribune Tavern

At Oakland's new go-to after-work spot, owners Chris Pastena and Terence Noor have struck gold with a particular confluence of factors: the prominent location in Oakland's business district, a meat-heavy menu tailor-made for the "brogrammer" set, great cocktails, and a dash of old-timey style. During happy hour in particular, both the bar and dining room are packed to the gills with raucous groups of co-workers of various stripes. As for the food, Tribune Tavern's classed-up reinterpretations of obscure (in the US) pub classics like Welsh rarebit and Irish colcannon won't disappoint, and the Guilty Fries (topped with roasted pork) are the very definition of a crowd pleaser. But it's in the shareable small plates — asparagus topped with hard-boiled eggs and house-made pancetta, say, or silky and unctuous grilled oxtail — that chef Noor really shows his skill and creativity. $$-$$$

Hang Ten Boiler

Part [illegible] lunch-plate special, part showcase for the down-home art of the Asian Cajun seafood boil, Hang Ten Boiler is, in a certain sense, the "fast-casual" restaurant in town. Here, two cobbled-together immigrant cuisines coexist in the most casual of settings — where utensils are optional, and dishware doesn't extend far beyond plastic trays and cardboard boxes. The crawfish (flown in from Louisiana daily), head-on shrimp, plump Manila clams, and whole Dungeness crabs are all fresh and fairly high-quality, and the signature "Hang Ten" sauce is an addictive slurry of garlic, butter, lemon juice, and Cajun spices. But while the shellfish is the main attraction, don't sleep on the slow-braised Kalua pork banh mi plate or the cornmeal-battered fried catfish, which is pretty much perfect. $-$$

Bar Dogwood

1644 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6669. The self-professed "[illegible]-driven meal sanctuary" in Oakland's Uptown district will surely satisfy your cocktail and cured meat craving with an array of delicious offerings, from hearty meat and cheese platters to a gingerly cocktail with house-made ginger syrup. Dogwood also serves one of the best grilled cheese sandwiches you'll ever have the pleasure of eating — a perfectly toasted, buttery, stretchy-and-stringy, sharp-and-savory delight. House-made add-ons range from an amazing, smoky whiskey-bacon chutney to a tomato jam that will appeal to diners who like to mix their sweet with their savory. $-$$

Sacred Wheel Cheese Shop

4935 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-653-1353. Despite the popularity of this Temescal cheese shop, many customers still aren't aware that owner Jana Davidson and her crew serve a full American comfort food menu all day long. And that's a shame, because the food at Sacred Wheel is legitimately great — from the colorful pickled eggs to what may be the best mac 'n' cheese in town. The shop's pièce de résistance is its grilled cheese sandwich, which pairs perfectly with Davidson's tangy, slightly spicy PBR tomato soup — each batch made with an entire twelve-pack of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer. And the playfully named "Loafin' Around," a stellar meatloaf sandwich that's built like a grilled cheese, is too delicious to be missed. $-$$

Ben's Restaurant

398 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-8398. There are many reasons you might not have heard of Ben's Restaurant — because it's a Chinese restaurant that caters to non-Chinese, because of its location, tucked away in the Jack London produce district, because it's a cash-only place that closes at 2 p.m. and isn't open on the weekend. Here's what you need to know: For 25 years, chef-owner Ben Fung has served tasty, inexpensive Chinese food to a diverse, loyal customer base. The restaurant's crowning glories are its crunchy, surprisingly grease-free batter-fried chicken (an off-menu special available on Wednesdays only) and its black-bean hot sauce. But really much of the menu is great: luxurious, comforting shrimp and scrambled eggs over rice, chow mein and fried rice dishes that feature fresh, wok-charred vegetables, and more. $

griddle fry) coexist with vegan Vietnamese banh mi, and it all feels perfectly natural. Credit the kitchen's meticulousness, which reaches perfect expression in the deep-fryer: Both bacon and house fries attain an amazing delicacy after a turn in hot oil, and neither ends up greasy. Amazing. $

Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe

1805 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-251-9400. The second outpost of Rudy's Can't Fail is a nice addition to Uptown Oakland's renaissance, adding an upbeat, family-friendly community hub to the Telegraph landscape. Food is diner-quality, another way of saying middle of the road. You can't fail with Rudy's pie, pancakes, and pastrami, but avoid items that go off-template (e.g., fish tacos). This location is bigger than the original in Emeryville, with a full bar, but still has the diner vibe down pat. Equally good for breakfast or a late-night respite from the Uptown bar parade. $$

Stag's Lunchette

364 17th St., Oakland, 510-835-8424. Stag's Lunchette is a meat-centric sandwich shop, but above all it's a place where, according to chef-owner Alexis Filipello, all of the meat is good meat: cruelty-free, hormone-free, antibiotic-free. Just about everything is brined/cured/dry-rubbed/smoked/etc. in-house, and for a place with a tiny kitchen, the restaurant's ambitiousness is impressive. The sandwich menu changes at least once a week, so you can never be sure what will be in the current rotation, but — when available — the butter-and-demi-glace-basted pastrami (with a kicky "piquant" dressing) and the tender Mediterranean-inspired roasted lamb (with tahini and spicy roasted tomatoes) are both surefire winners. And don't sleep on the breakfast menu: The perfectly constructed Baron's Baking bagel platter and the super-fresh house-made danish are both spectacular. $-$$

Truebuger

146 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-208-5678. This lively Uptown burger joint serves classic, simple, beautifully crafted burgers with a few California cuisine touches like daily-ground Angus beef, Bread Workshop challah buns, house-made aioli, and freshly plucked lettuce and tomatoes. Other standouts include the spicy, crunchy coleslaw dog, an earthy, elemental bowl of chili, a fabulous Portobello burger, and a wonderfully garlicky Caesar. Save room for a hand-spun milkshake with your choice of mix-ins (peanut butter, strawberries, caramel, and more). $

Z Cafe and Bar

2735 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-2005. Oakland's Auto Row may be a daft place to open a neighborhood bistro — after hours, there are more shiny new cars around here than neighbors. But it's precisely the charming neighborhood vibe that makes Sheila and Mehdi Zarehbin's cafe an easygoing place to grab a Caesar, a burger, and a drink (the bar stocks more than one hundred vodkas). The rest of the menu can be clunky, but the grand-looking, 1920s-era building communicates its own sense of grace. $$

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50

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Farmstead Wine Tasting Hosted by Farmstead's knowledgeable staff with all proceeds going to local schools. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 2-5 p.m. $3 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 3218 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-864-9463. FarmsteadCheesesandWines.com.

[illegible] Food Market Featuring food trucks, tents, carts, and other Producers — including Bombera's BBQ, Peter's North Carolina, Mustache Mike's (Italian ices), Nau Kau Corner (Hawaiian-Filipino comfort foods), and Beulah's Bean Truck (coffee and dog treats). Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. free. College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda. 510-522-7221. Alameda.Peralta.edu.

Off and Odd With food trucks, drinks for sale, music, kids' activities, and half-price museum admission Fridays, 5-9 p.m. Free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Slow Food Tuesdays With food truck-inspired farm-to-plate served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, 10-10. 800-554-7266. Paragon Restaurant, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-848-8595. ParagonRestaurant.com.

"Tagine" Moroccan Pop-Up Night With Moroccan food prepared by chef Zouhair Kacem. Every other Thursday, 6-10 p.m. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2233. GuerillaCafe.com.

Vegan Wine & Market Tour Wine tastings at Mayo Family Winery and Chouinard Winery and cheeses by Miyoko. Salyo and Wayfare, includes transportation to and from the wineries. Sat., June 29, 11:30 a.m. $120.

Vintage Berkeley Wines Tasting Try five wines for $5 at both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook page or the Pay No Retail on what wines will be poured each day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-665-8600.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

Oakland Farm Fresh Market Community produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. [illegible], 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley.

PICK

Summer Cinema and Food Trucks

Settle in for a free family-friendly film with your choice of food truck goodies to brighten the night. As part of its Summer Cinema and Food Trucks series, Studio One Art Center (365 45th St., Oakland) will screen Walt Disney Animation Studios' Wreck-It Ralph on its front lawn on Friday, June 21, with the assorted trucks of the Oakland-based Bites Off Broadway food truck roundup parked on-site offering their wares for sale. BOB's dozen-plus trucks, in constant rotation, offer everything from tamales to barbecue to vegan treats. — *Anneli Rufus*

Friday, June 21, 7:30 p.m. Film free, food-truck prices vary. 510-597-5027 or StudioOneArtCenter.net

510-525-8423. [illegible]

Bayfair Market/Oakland Market Fresh produce brought to local market and produce farmers. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

BFB Farm Fresh Market, Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Wy., Berkeley. 510-845-9010. BYAOnline.org.

Fruitvale Farmers' Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, baked goods, and more. Accepts WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-535-6929. Fruitvale BART Market, 3411 East 12th St., Oakland.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market This weekly market hosts more than 70 produce, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. SplashPad.org/farmersmarket.html. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-1275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp.

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A farmers' market featuring locally grown and produced foods from more than 35 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. AgriculturalMarket.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000. Ci.Hayward.Ca.Us.

Kaiser Permanente Regional Produce Market With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the produce. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Produce Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Oakland, 3501 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With organic fresh flowers, an organic chocolatier, fresh and wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal prepared. The market also hosts live music and entertainment. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-847-0801. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and prepared foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers-market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With farmers, specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Oakland Children's Hospital Farmers' Market EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-250-7957. [illegible]. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North [illegible] Farmers' Market With a healthy cafe and commercial kitchen space, specialty organic produce from Bay Area farms, and fine market goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. PhatBeetsProduce.org. Phat Beets Saturday Farmers' Market, 942 Stanford Ave., Oakland.

Oakland Community Produce Stand With organic local produce, free samples, and cooking demonstrations. Wednesdays, 2-5:30 p.m. Continues through June 26, free. [illegible] School, 875 41st St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. SFMFP.org.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market Oakland seasonal produce, breads, and other organic foods, along with plenty of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers' Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. UrbanVillageOnline.com/markets/old-oakland/.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, produce, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, Webster and Water St., Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, live chickens, flowers, eggs, and other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market With fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, and a range of other agricultural and culinary products from local farmers. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30, free. 510-236-4049. RichmondMainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 11th Street and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5030. Ci.Berkeley.ca.us.

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With organic farms and other food for sale. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd Sts., Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby and Adeline streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Youth-Led Farm Stand The Youth Farm Stand features seasonal produce from regional farmers and select urban produce, along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 7938 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com.

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CAPES AND JAPES

Who you gonna believe: a strange visitor from another planet (*Man of Steel*) or ordinary people (*Frameline37*)?

By Kelly Vance

Henry Cavill does Superman duties in the tedious *Man of Steel*.

Man of Steel
Directed by Zack Snyder. With Henry Cavill and Michael Shannon. Now playing.

Frameline37
June 20-30 at Rialto Cinemas Elmwood and other venues.

Man of Steel shoots off an entire movie's worth of special effects in its first fifteen minutes. Right away this starts us worrying. Whatever the advisability of yet another movie about the origins of DC Comics' Superman, belaboring the caped crusader's beginnings on the doomed planet Krypton can only distract from the main event. Better to summarize Krypton's predicament in one or two quick scenes and get on with the superlative infant's adventures in Smallville, Kansas.

But director Zack Snyder and his screenwriters David S. Goyer and Christopher Nolan — adapting Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's characters created for the original comics — seem determined to prove something. Soon after little Kal-El, aka Superman, is born amid a formation of flying tadpoles, his father and mother Jor-El (Russell Crowe) and Lara Lor-Van (Ayelet Zurer) run afoul of the evil General Zod (Michael Shannon), a megalomaniac bent on combating "degenerative principles." Uh oh, that's fascist talk. Everything on Krypton is facing destruction, including the underwater baby pods and tiger-faced giant winged insects, so just before he dies Jor-El packs baby Kal-El into an automatic-pilot rocket ship pointed at Earth. We think we've seen the last of Jor-El, but no, he reappears as a sort of hologram. Several times. No one from Krypton ever really dies; they keep coming back as reruns — that's the beauty of it.

Ma and Pa Kent (Diane Lane and Kevin Costner) are slow to tumble to the kid's potential, but when they finally do, Ma turns out to be the ideal adoptive parent, while Pa counsels young Clark Kent (English actor Henry Cavill) to keep his identity secret. Clark agrees reluctantly. He'd rather fight offshore oil rig fires, visit his Fortress of Solitude-type deep in a glacier, rescue an intrepid newspaper reporter named Lois Lane (Amy Adams), and shoot the breeze with his deceased birth dad — dig that spooky metallic frieze diorama that explains Kal/Clark's background.

The mind begins to wander. A question arises. Why doesn't Superman ever do anything about global warming? What's he good for, anyway? With his toned-down costume on (the "S" doesn't even stand for Superman, we're told), he looks like a corporate lawyer at a costume party. But no time for that. Soon Zod and his crew come looking for Kal-El and the battle royale begins. Zod wants to take over Earth, cornfields and all. Everything else gets put on hold except for the Magic Kotex, or Cordex, or whatever it is. Cue mega CGI in shades of gray.

There's nothing very astonishing about any of this, despite layers upon layers of effects. The prematurely gray color scheme may indeed indicate the inner anxiety of this unusually dour superhero, but somehow we expect a titanic struggle for the whatever of our planet to be, I don't know, more vivid. No individual set piece stands out, with the possible exception of the tornado scene or maybe the ruination of Smallville. Exploding planets in space mean nothing, but when Superman and Zod crash through a Kansas grain elevator or an IHOP, that's scary because it hits close to home. Eventually the demolition road show visits the city formerly called Metropolis — because no plan of destruction can truly be considered world-class unless it involves messing up New York City. Metal shavings everywhere. The effects were undoubtedly costly but they look cheap.

The acting is generally perfunctory, with Cavill's Kal the epitome of perfunctoriness. Shannon, as usual, is the most fascinating actor onscreen. There are times when director Snyder (*300*, *Watchmen*), a veteran herder of robotic heroes, counters the terrific noise of Superman and Zod's slugfest with one or two eerily quiet moments where they just stare at each other while muttering insults. At times like this it makes perfect sense to imagine the same two players as, say, Jesus Christ and Satan in a biblical spectacle. We're already halfway there, with Shannon as a notably wicked devil, tempting our guy in the desert. Superman's scene getting advice from a priest and his "surrender to mankind" just reinforce the imagery.

But *Man of Steel* is mostly about big booms and fireballs. It's poor mythology that runs too long — 143 of this summer's most tedious minutes — and proves nothing other than the fact that the US military is just as obnoxious as General "Release the World Engine!" Zod, and that Superman is a lonely immigrant. Tell us something we didn't know.

Other film festivals whisk us to faraway places and introduce us to unusual folks we'd otherwise never meet. Frameline, the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival, is different. It mostly deals with the here and now and characters that urbanites see every day, people who need no introduction.

Of course, once in a while a true outsider pops up, like Halley Feiffer, star and co-writer of *He's Way More Famous Than You* — the cinematic equivalent of walking around with a "Kick Me Hard" sign on your back. Feiffer plays a putative version of herself, a New York actress whose career has stalled ever since she appeared in Noah Baumbach's *The Squid and the Whale* in 2005. She can't/won't stop talking about that. In fact she can't/won't stop talking in general, chugging alcohol, and pestering everyone she knows, especially those she thinks are trending, in order to catch her elusive next big break. It's as if *8 ½* were remade by Paris Hilton. Feiffer performs her big musical number "My Vagina Is Eight Miles Wide," while bicycling through Manhattan traffic. She has gay friends. That's the connection. You'll either love it or hate it when it plays The Castro Theatre (429 Castro St., San Francisco) on June 29.

Alternatively, a pair of dramas with recognizable African-American characters — Neil Drumming's *Big Words* and Rodney Evans' *The Happy Sad* — take realism to new heights. *The Happy Sad* may be positioned as a metrosexuality merry-go-round, but "merry" doesn't exactly describe it, as an ensemble of NYC singles mix and match, lying to each other and themselves while searching for the lowdown on love (Castro, June 25). *Big Words* is decidedly more bohemian, the story of three former hip-hop homies from Brooklyn suddenly facing middle age, with knockout perfs by Dorian Missick, Gbenga Akinnagbe, and Darien Sills-Evans. Catch it at Rialto Cinemas Elmwood (2966 College Ave., Berkeley) on June 26. For more, visit Frameline.org. ■

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

OPENING

The Bling Ring This story of a clique of San Fernando Valley teenage girls (and one boy) [illegible] after-dark hobby is to [illegible] and [illegible] homes and steal their high-fashion [illegible] is very much in filmmaker Sofia Coppola's comfort zone, but that doesn't prevent it from being one of her best movies, [illegible] because of the editing. The [illegible] of true crime and [illegible] [illegible] is [illegible], especially when [illegible] (Katie Chang) and her sidekick Marc [illegible] (Israel Broussard) [illegible] director Coppola's [illegible] dialogue, adapted from a *Vanity Fair* article by Nancy Jo Sales. The [illegible] confirms everything we already think [illegible] who [illegible] watch TMZ. Co-starring Emma Watson, Claire Julien, and Paris Hilton, who plays herself as the ultimate [illegible] victim-turned-crime site. See how they run. (87 min.) (K.V.)

Monsters University Animated family comedy (and prequel to *Monsters Inc.*) following the protagonists as they learn the fundamentals of [illegible]. Directed by Dan Scanlon; written by [illegible] Scanlon, Daniel Gerson, and Robert L. Baird; with voices by Billy Crystal, John Goodman, and Steve Buscemi. (102 min.)

World War Z Apocalyptic horror film about a UN worker caught in the middle of a zombie pandemic. Directed by Marc Forster; written by Matthew Michael Carnahan, Drew Goddard, [illegible] [illegible], and J. Michael Straczynski, based on the novel of the same name by Max Brooks; starring Brad Pitt, Mireille Enos, James Badge Dale, and Matthew Fox. (116 min.)

ONGOING

After Earth M. Night Shyamalan-helmed epic about a father and son (Will and Jaden Smith, respectively) who are stranded on earth after the planet has been evacuated. Written by Shyamalan, Smith, and Gary Whitta, and starring Sophie Okonedo and Zoë Kravitz. (100 min.)

Dirty Wars This provocative documentary about an [illegible] [illegible] spotlighting the activities of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), a shadowy US [illegible] security [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] "enemies of freedom" as [illegible] al-Awlaki, the American citizen killed by a drone [illegible] for his inflammatory ways. Director Rick Rowley watches as Jeremy Scahill, an investigative war correspondent for *The Nation*, follows the JSOC's bloody fingerprints from Afghanistan to Yemen to Somalia and beyond. What they, and we, learn is deeply disturbing and something as rarely [illegible] reported in major news media. Further, Scahill points to President Obama as the one who [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible]. Written by Scahill and David Riker. (90 min.) (K.V.)

The East Brit Marling, of the cool [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] under the guidance of filmmaker Zal Batmanglij, with whom she made *The Sound of My Voice*. This time Marling plays Sarah, a resourceful, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] *The East*'s handsome [illegible] (played by Alexander Skarsgård) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Batmanglij's screenplay, written with Marling, is [illegible] [illegible] everything [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] framework, with the added [illegible] of some genuine right-wrong ambiguity [illegible] the angry [illegible] and their [illegible] [illegible] adversaries. Good [illegible] by Marling and Skarsgård, as well as Ellen Page as a [illegible] rebel. Not to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on it. (116 min.) (K.V.)

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com, or by scanning the code below

Epic: [illegible] family adventure [illegible] a teenager [illegible] into a [illegible] world of forest-dwellers. [illegible], by Chris Wedge, loosely adapted from the [illegible] Joyce children's book *The Leaf Men and the* [illegible] *Good Bugs* by Wedge [illegible] Hart, Daniel [illegible]. [illegible] Josh Hutcherson, and Christoph Waltz. (102 min.)

Fast & Furious 6: The sixth [illegible] of the venerable [illegible] franchise [illegible] to take down a [illegible] organization in exchange for their amnesty. Directed by Justin Lin; written by Chris Morgan; starring Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez, and [illegible]. (130 min.)

Fill the Void: Hebrew-language drama about a young Hasid forced to marry her deceased sister's [illegible]. Written and directed by Rama Burshtein; starring Hadas Yaron, Yiftach Klein, and Irit Sheleg. (90 min.)

Frances Ha: [illegible] Gerwig [illegible] Noah Baumbach [illegible]. [illegible] urban young woman trying, in vain, to get her adult life started. Baumbach's (*Greenberg*, *The Squid and the Whale*) [illegible] Gerwig [illegible] Frances (Gerwig) can't find a steady job, a boyfriend, a place to live, [illegible] and yet we not only sympathize with her, we embrace her [illegible]. Gerwig is a [illegible] original. Screenplay by Baumbach and Gerwig. Costarring Mickey Sumner and [illegible]. Strongly recommended. (86 min.) (KV)

The Great Gatsby: [illegible] Luhrmann [illegible] F. Scott Fitzgerald's landmark [illegible] a mysterious rich man in the Roaring [illegible]. Rather, he [illegible] hyperactive visuals (Luhrmann's gaudiest yet), with [illegible] characterization [illegible]. Leonardo DiCaprio [illegible] *Citizen Kane* [illegible] Gatsby, the Carey Mulligan [illegible] that leaves Tobey Maguire as narrator/tour guide Nick Carraway [illegible] DiCaprio and Maguire, the only actors [illegible] Elizabeth Debicki as Jordan [illegible] Jason Clarke as [illegible] George [illegible]. Screenplay adaptation by Luhrmann and Craig Pearce. (142 min.) (KV)

The Hangover Part III: [illegible] Todd Phillips [illegible] Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, and [illegible] Galifianakis. (100 min.)

The Internship: How can there be a [illegible] in the movie [illegible]? This and other questions arise with regularity in the [illegible] story of a pair of laid-off, [illegible] fortysomethings (Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson) and [illegible] when they find themselves as interns [illegible] at Google with a bunch of [illegible] their age. [illegible] laughs [illegible] corporations [illegible]. Directed by Shawn Levy (*Night at the Museum*). Screenplay by co-producer/writer Vaughn and Jared Stern. (119 min.) (KV)

Iron Man 3: Robert Downey Jr. [illegible] in his third stab [illegible] superhero Tony Stark. [illegible] Gwyneth Paltrow as Tony's long-suffering [illegible] Pepper Potts, but there are [illegible] director [illegible] Marvel Comics franchise. Try Guy Pearce as rival technocrat and [illegible]. The best thing [illegible] though, is Ben Kingsley's [illegible] part as The Mandarin, [illegible]. Gist of the plot: Tony is tired of donning the suit and playing the game. We sympathize. Black and Drew Pearce [illegible] screenplay. (129 min.) 2013, rated PG-13) (KV)

The Kings of Summer: The challenge for writer [illegible] Galletta and director Jordan Vogt-Roberts is to make [illegible] as something new [illegible] coming-of-age field. They succeed, to a degree, with the story of three teenage boys who build a [illegible] in the woods and try to [illegible]. [illegible] and the presence of one of the three [illegible] Nick Offerman [illegible] and Alison Brie [illegible] grand scheme. (97 min.) (KV)

Kon-Tiki: The [illegible] Thor Heyerdahl and his 8,000-mile, 101-day voyage across the Pacific in 1947 [illegible] Polynesia [illegible]. Heyerdahl [illegible]

[illegible] (Pål Sverre Hagen) [illegible] trying to prove [illegible] by [illegible] and his five crew members [illegible] level of [illegible] adventure [illegible] *Life of Pi*, but character [illegible]. Ably directed by Joachim Rønning and Espen Sandberg, and [illegible] Tobias Santelmann, Gustaf Skarsgård, [illegible] original [illegible] directed [illegible] by Petter [illegible] Skavlan and [illegible] Seyfe. (118 min., 2012, rated PG-13) (KV)

Man of Steel: Nothing really astonishing here, just a long [illegible] to the Superman origins [illegible] played by English actor Henry Cavill [illegible] Zack Snyder [illegible] David S. Goyer and Christopher Nolan [illegible] spend what feels like half the film on the doomed planet Krypton, trying to [illegible] Earth [illegible] (Clark Kent [illegible]) [illegible] (Michael Shannon) [illegible]. The effects are [illegible]. Costarring Amy Adams, Russell Crowe, Diane Lane, Kevin Costner, Ayelet Zurer, and Laurence Fishburne. (143 min.) (KV)

Much Ado About Nothing: Joss Whedon's screenplay of William Shakespeare's most popular comedy [illegible]. The setting is a formidable house in contemporary times (filmed at [illegible] Santa Monica home) where [illegible] government types [illegible] Claudio and Hero (Fran Kranz and Jillian Morgese) and the [illegible] Benedick (Alexis Denisof) and Beatrice (Amy Acker) [illegible] steal the show [illegible] with fine support by Nathan Fillion as Dogberry the [illegible] Clark Gregg as Leonato the host, and Sean Maher as [illegible] Don John. [illegible] Shakespeare [illegible]. (109 min.) (KV)

Now You See Me: Effects-heavy [illegible] featuring [illegible] a crew of magicians [illegible] Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Isla Fisher, and Dave Franco [illegible] Mark Ruffalo and [illegible] Mélanie Laurent [illegible]. Costarring Morgan Freeman as a professional [illegible] and Michael Caine [illegible]. Directed by Louis Leterrier (*Clash of the Titans*). Screenplay by Ed Solomon, [illegible] and Ed Solomon. (115 min.) (KV)

Oblivion: Tom Cruise as Earth [illegible] beyond recognition [illegible] a terrifying beauty, "a beautiful stranger," and "the fate of humanity in his hands" — that's a recipe for a headache. And director Joseph Kosinski (*TRON: Legacy*) [illegible] a tech-warrior/worker [illegible] on a ravaged Earth in the year 2077 [illegible] Jack Harper (Cruise) [illegible] Good question. People have been asking [illegible] Cruise for years. [illegible] Kosinski and Arvid Nelson's [illegible] the presence of Andrea Riseborough and Olga Kurylenko as Jack's [illegible]. The [illegible] dialogue and [illegible] shine through. A giant IMAX screen [illegible] Oblivion [illegible] Costarring Morgan Freeman, Melissa Leo, and [illegible]. (126 min.) (KV)

The Place Beyond the Pines: Ryan Gosling and Bradley Cooper give career-making performances in Derek Cianfrance's family drama, an expansive (140-minute) meditation on fate disguised as a [illegible] A motorcycle stunt-man-turned-bank robber (Gosling) runs up against a police patrolman (Cooper), and their chance encounter [illegible] everyone they know, including the bank robber's wife (Eva Mendes), his son (Dane DeHaan), the [illegible] (Emory Cohen), and a [illegible] by Ray Liotta. [illegible] who directed Gosling in *Blue Valentine* [illegible] Ben Mendelsohn, Rose Byrne, Robert Clohessy, and Mahershala Ali. [illegible] (140 min.) (KV)

The Purge: [illegible] twelve-hour period during which crime is legalized and emergency [illegible]. Written and directed by James DeMonaco; starring Ethan Hawke, Lena Headey, and Max Burkholder. (85 min.)

The Sapphires: [illegible] How would a screenplay [illegible] Australian Aboriginal [illegible] A [illegible] the women are a [illegible] quartet of singing family members who [illegible] 1968, is led by a congenial Irish goofball named Dave Lovelace (Chris O'Dowd). [illegible] with [illegible] (Deborah Mailman) [illegible] manager Dave. The [illegible] Aboriginal [illegible] Wayne Blair and [illegible] Tony Briggs are out to [illegible] history and to make us laugh at the same time. They succeed. (103 min.) (KV)

Star Trek Into Darkness: The [illegible] in the venerable [illegible] finds Captain Kirk (Chris Pine) [illegible] ranks. Directed by J.J. Abrams; written by Roberto Orci, Alex Kurtzman, Damon Lindelof, and Gene

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[illegible] also starring Zachary Quinto and Zoe Saldana. (132 min.)

This Is the End Comedy about a group of celebrities contending with the apocalypse. Directed by Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen; written by Rogen, Goldberg, and Jason Stone; starring Rogen, Jonah Hill, James Franco, Mindy Kaling, and Emma Watson, all as themselves. (107 min.)

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

[illegible] (1 4 min., 1972) Hosted by Cheryl Dunye (The New Parkway Theater, Oakland, 7:00)

The Man Who Fell to Earth (140 min., 1976) A Theater Near You (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 7:00)

War of Whistleblowers: Press Freedom and the National Security State (64 min., 2013) (Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 7:00)

Daisy Brown (100 min., 19[illegible]) (The Magick Lantern, 7:30)

[illegible] (51 min., 2012) Presented by [illegible] My Name: Common Street Games (49th St. & Telegraph Ave., Temescal, 8:00)

[illegible] (97 min., 1995) [illegible] Classics (Parkway 9:15)

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

The Long Day State Film Festival (total running time about three hours). (Forth Wall Wine Company, Alameda, 7:30)

The Girl (80 min., 1968) In Hungarian with English subtitles. From the Archive: Treasures of Eastern European and Soviet Cinema (PFA, 7:00)

Wreck-It Ralph (108 min., 2012) Summer Cinema and Food Trucks (Studio One Art Center, Oakland, 7:30)

The Graduate (106 min., 1967) Paramount Movie Classics (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 8:00)

Love (88 min., 1971) In Hungarian with English subtitles. From the Archive: Treasures of Eastern European and Soviet Cinema (PFA, 8:40)

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Love Lost or Die (82 min., 2012) Community Cinema (Parkway, 2:00)

English Street (30 min., 2013) (Parkway 3:30)

The Hill and the Hole (92 min., 2013) In English and Finnish with English subtitles. A Theater Near You (Pacific Film Archive, 8:30)

Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah (103 min., 1991) Also includes screening of Godzilla vs. Mothra (102 min., 1992) (Bal Theatre, San Leandro, 7:00)

Tribunas (55 min., 1977) In Spanish with English subtitles. A Theater Near You (PFA, 8:30)

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Amata: Eyes of the Tribune (47 min., 1987) (Parkway 3:30)

Kiki's Delivery Service (103 min., 1989) Castles in the Sky: Masterful Anime from Studio Ghibli (PFA, 4:00)

Death Race 2000 (80 min., 1975) (Parkway 6:30)

The Men's Story Project: Bio Local! (Proyecto Historias de Hombres: Es Mi Alma) (37 min., 2013) In Spanish with English subtitles. Followed by a Q&A with director Josie Lehrer (La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley, 7:30)

Pinocchio (88 min., 1940) (The Tannery, Berkeley, 7:30)

The Fifth Element (126 min., 1997) Party at the Parkway (Parkway, 9:00)

MONDAY, JUNE 24

Free Fall (100 min., 2013) In German with English subtitles. Frameline37 (Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, Berkeley, 9:30)

[illegible] Ronette (90 min., 2013) In Spanish with English subtitles. (Elmwood, 7:00)

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

[illegible] Superhero (15 min., 2012) With shorts Performing Girl (24 min., 2013) and Second Hand Emotion (9 min., 2012). Frameline37 (Elmwood, 9:30)

[illegible]: Portrait of a Pimp (90 min., 2012) Doc Night at the New Parkway (Parkway, 7:00)

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (131 min., 1966) Frameline37 (Elmwood, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

Big Words (94 min., 2012) With [illegible] Neil Drumming in person. Frameline37 (Elmwood 9:30)

[illegible] (100 min., [illegible]) Mostly in French with English subtitles. Dancing with Light: The Cinematography of Agnès Godard (PFA, 7:00)

Free [illegible] (97 min., 2012) With a potluck and [illegible] at 6:30 p.m., [illegible] Films of Fact and Life (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

[illegible] Love Story (90 min., 2012) In Thai with English subtitles. Frameline37 (Elmwood, 7:00) ●

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AN AMBASSADOR OF PUNK

Martin Sorrondeguy founded two of punk's most confrontational bands, but his legacy transcends even his music.

By Sam Lefebvre

Martin Sorrondeguy has challenged institutional racism and addressed sexual identity politics in his music.

The hallway at the San Francisco headquarters of *Maximum Rocknroll* (*MRR*) is flanked with more than 40,000 records from underground punk bands. It leads to a patio where touring bands are often found barbecuing, drinking, and sharing stories from the road. It's an apt setting to meet Martin Sorrondeguy, a veteran musician, documentary filmmaker, and photographer who's been active in the punk scene since the mid-Eighties. Sorrondeguy and *MRR* have similar goals: to report on and foster political consciousness in punk music around the world.

In the midst of preparing for an upcoming East Coast tour with Limp Wrist, Sorrondeguy reflected on his 22 years fronting fiercely political punk bands, including Los Crudos, which will reunite for a rare appearance at 924 Gilman on Saturday, June 29.

Sorrondeguy is best known as the vocalist for the hardcore band Los Crudos, which challenges institutionalized racism against Latinos with fast and short songs. Los Crudos' lyrics are written almost exclusively in Spanish, and the group has motivated many Latino youth to fight for social justice through punk and its networks. Sorrondeguy's documentary film, *Beyond the Screams*, depicts the frustration of young people of color and their empowerment through punk bands. He also fronted the queer hardcore band Limp Wrist, which addressed identity politics within and without the punk scene. Through it all, Sorrondeguy has photographed punks on five continents, and recently compiled more than four hundred pictures taken between 1985 and 2012 into a book called *Get Shot*.

Despite his accomplishments, Sorrondeguy is also very humble. He's keener to hear about new bands than discuss his own groups, and prefers to photograph underground bands at warehouse gigs rather than high profile ones at big venues. Even as he sat down for an interview, Sorrondeguy joked, "Can you just answer the questions for me?"

For Sorrondeguy, confrontational music came out of necessity rather than choice. "There are people who have the luxury to completely ignore politics and people who don't," he explained. Sorrondeguy is resolutely among the latter. His family emigrated from Uruguay to Pilsen, a Chicago neighborhood that saw an influx of Latinos in the Seventies. Sorrondeguy described his upbringing as a "hyper-barrio-esque existence of growing up in a gang-infested neighborhood in Chicago." He experienced social inequity and realized that Latino youth had few options besides joining gangs. His political viewpoints alienated him, however, yet Sorrondeguy found an alternative in punk, which inspired him to advocate for his people's struggle.

"Other people impose these preconceived ideas of how we're supposed to be," Sorrondeguy said. "When you grab those expectations and flip them around, people have a hard time taking it in, and that's why punk works so well."

Sorrondeguy formed Los Crudos in 1991 and they quickly gained a massive audience. By 1998 Los Crudos had toured five continents, each trip organized directly between members of the band and punks abroad. Sorrondeguy founded the record label Lengua Armada Discos (Armed Tongue Records) in order to release the music of Los Crudos and many other bands from the Spanish-speaking world. Los Crudos corresponded feverishly with punks worldwide and included political commentary in their records' packaging, often donating a portion of their releases' profits to benefit urban neighborhoods or disenfranchised indigenous groups. While the audiences at Los Crudos shows engaged in the aggressive ritual of typical punk gigs, Sorrondeguy often paused between songs to speak about politics and community or to mediate tension in the crowd.

But in 1998, Sorrondeguy decided to disband Los Crudos, after facing the turning point that many hardcore bands have faced before: "My question to the guys was: 'Are we going to become a rock 'n' roll band now?' That's what I didn't want," Sorrondeguy recalled. "Crudos was never a rock band. We didn't want to play that game."

Sorrondeguy quickly founded Limp Wrist to tackle new social issues. The formation of Limp Wrist in the late Nineties coincided with Sorrondeguy's decision to come out. With songs like "Cruising at the Show" and "I Love Hardcore Boys/I Love Boys Hardcore," Limp Wrist expressed empowering pro-sex sentiments to queer youth, delivering the messages through humor and very fast, brief and loud songs.

Limp Wrist carried Sorrondeguy's musical endeavors into the 21st century, but with his desire to perform came an equal passion to document. Sorrondeguy had begun shooting *Beyond the Screams* while he was still in Los Crudos and eventually released it in 2004. The film chronicles Latino punks' resistance to institutionalized racism, anti-immigration bigotry, and police brutality from the late Seventies to the Nineties.

Similarly, Sorrondeguy's book, *Get Shot*, represents one of the most diverse and inclusive representations of the punk subculture ever published. "I couldn't show you what punk is with ten rolls of film — that's like a drive-by shooting of punk. I wanted to do this for 25 years and then be able to show someone," Sorrondeguy wrote in the introduction of *Get Shot*. The book portrays punks with contorted faces in basement venues writhing on the floor, but also at ease in modest homes, dejected in the street, and busy at work. It's an evocative account of punk as an indignant, communal force in the face of staggering impediments.

Though fans implored Los Crudos to reunite for years, Sorrondeguy often declined. He eventually conceded to perform in 2006 at the first annual Latino Punk Fest in Pilsen, an event that was inspired by Sorrondeguy's bands, but only under one condition: that it be a secret. "We played as a gift to everyone who was there to see the new bands," Sorrondeguy said. They've played sporadically since, reconvening for select US dates and tours of Australia and South America. Los Crudos agreed to appear at the This Is Not a Step Fest because the event is partially a benefit for the family of Sarah Kirsch, a vital member of the local punk community who died last year.

To this day, Sorrondeguy remains an ambassador of punk as much as a living legend. The night after our interview, I spotted him photographing a Swedish hardcore band at The Knockout. He didn't hesitate to engage with the swirling, energetic crowd to get the right angle, and in between sets, he handed out flyers. They advertised a show a few days later at which his newest hardcore band, Needles, would share a bill with two Spanish punk bands. Watching him mingle with the crowd that night, it seemed that he could carry on like this forever. ●

Show Details

Los Crudos plays 924 Gilman (924 Gilman St., Berkeley) on Saturday, June 29, 8 p.m. $36. 924Gilman.org

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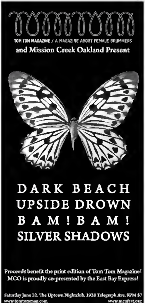
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KEEPING IT REAL

Jazz pianist Benny Green draws from the masters to inspire his hard-bopping originals

[illegible] Fancher

Hot off the 55th Monterey Jazz Festival's grueling North American tour — 40 cities in 23 states — jazz pianist Benny Green is back in his Berkeley home for barely more than a pit stop. On the heels of releasing his self-produced album, *Magic Beans*, Green is generating gigs for his Benny Green Trio with tour dates in Japan and the United States, plus recording a new album of original tunes in Santa Cruz — all before playing hometown shows at Yoshi's in Oakland on June 27 and 28.

"It was great," Green said about the Monterey Jazz Festival's nine-week tour. "But I was glad to go back to work with my trio because I was inspired to rededicate myself to practicing."

In light of Green's 43 years at the keyboard, his mention of practice is both humorous and indicative of his hard-driving passion. Expressions of overflowing gratitude fill any conversation with Green. Regarding his reverence for the silvery pure sound of Blue Note records passed on to him by his late father, his years playing with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, and his getting back into the drill of rehearsals with his band, Green said, "I'm blessed. I get to do what I love for a living."

Since his mother signed him up for classical piano lessons at the age of seven, Green has tickled the keyboards at Berkeley High, Yoshi's, and various Bay Area clubs, and jammed with jazz luminaries like Betty Carter and Blakey. A long trail of albums and awards as leader, songwriter, and sideman fill his hard-bopping wake. He cites Thelonius Monk and McCoy Tyner as his heroes, as much for their historic impact on jazz as for their influence on his career.

"I've been on a mission to keep it real for jazz," Green said. "The most enjoyable musicians have learned unspoken sensitivity and to revel in communal interactions that humble them to the greater environment."

Still, the desire he discovered as a boy is "the seed that drives me, even now," he admitted. Reviewers have called his playing "elegantly nonchalant" (*Chicago Tribune*), his style "fluent and streamlined" (*The New York Times*) and often note his quarter century on the professional circuit playing "technically superb jazz" (*New York Daily News*).

Green explained that the Japanese tour will be the perfect opportunity to unravel the harmonies and tones of the trio's new music before recording it. "Japanese people are less inhibited when they come to a musical venue. They show joy in a spontaneous way that touches my heart. It shows me how magical music is, right in the moment." In performance it's clear: At the keyboard, Green responds like a sponge — absorbing audience reactions, soaking up the sounds of drummer Kenny Washington and bassist David Wong, compressing the rich heritage drawn from years of listening, practicing, performing, and ruminating, then releasing the cumulative sonic energy into the atmosphere. It's an implosion, not loud — but rhapsodic.

Show Details
Benny Green plays Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) on Thursday, June 27 and Friday, June 28. 8 & 10 p.m. $21. Yoshis.com

[illegible]
After 43 years of playing, Benny Green said he treats the piano more gently.

"The piano feels more and more like my friend," Green said about turning fifty and continuing to explore his instrument. "Instead of hitting the piano, I treat it more gently. It's internal and subtle."

As a songwriter, Green avoids lyrics, preferring the way instrumentation allows a listener an individual, autonomous experience. But in conversation, he's poetic and translucently articulate, so the temptation to ask him to use words to describe a track on *Magic Beans* is irresistible. Reluctantly, he said that "La Portuguesa" consists of three interconnected moods, then proceeds to define them using the language of place, not mood: a road at twilight, a witch's home, a bedroom in which a summer romance occurs. The words are as evocative as Green's approach. "When I listen, the most engaging mystery of music is never really explained to me, but it's real — and real to each of us," he said.

Magic Beans runs the stylistic gamut — from Latin-infused flourishes in the title track and "Jackie McLean," to the economy of "Vanished," to the Ellington nod within the rhythms of "Paraphrase." Like Green's previous albums, *Magic Beans* features crystalline technique, but perhaps because the writing "hit him fast and hard," he said, his otherwise cool style smolders.

Green also spends an enormous amount of time listening, with discernment when self-evaluating his own recordings, and with awe, when listening to the classic Fifties and Sixties tunes he adores. "There's a straightforward honesty to that music," Green said. "It's not unlike Baroque in its purity."

Green admitted he's not overly curious about every technological advance, like the latest recording gear or streaming app. He said he pays close attention if anything important "breaks through," but is far more focused on hearing new truths in his melodies and stumbling upon unexpected insights with his trio.

"I'm the same soul I've always been," Green said with a laugh. "I'm careful, resourceful, aware of my body and what the situation is calling for. As a performer, it's my responsibility to bring the audience something worthwhile. I try to give a human, meaningful experience, daily." ●

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CD REVIEWS

SONIC BURSTS

Palms reaches for post-metal nirvana, The Mantles release some of their best work to date, and Surfer Blood adds emotional heft to its pop sound.

Palms

Palms

Palms is the new project from Deftones vocalist Chino Moreno and three former members of ISIS. And it sounds exactly as you'd imagine.

For those unfamiliar with those bands, Deftones is a Sacramento outfit that was initially, sadly, placed in the nu metal camp (the band includes a turntablist) but whose experimentalism elevated its music far above that genre's limitations. Its seminal 2000 album *White Pony* was like the *OK Computer* for heavy music fans. LA's ISIS, on the other hand, is considered one of the leaders of the "post metal" movement — its quiet/loud style rode the line between delicate and heavy, thoughtful and visceral. The group called it quits three years ago, after releasing the most successful album of its career. So fans may consider this project — which features ISIS guitarist/keyboardist Bryant Clifford Meyer, bassist Jeff Caxide, and drummer Aaron Harris — a new ISIS release of sorts.

Indeed, the six tracks on *Palms* sound a lot like ISIS: There are spacey, pretty moments and flat-out skull-crushing ones. Every track sounds like the band is trying to reach post-metal nirvana: atmospheric, shimmering guitars, emotionally fraught, reverbed-out vocals, textural drumming, and sprawling arrangements. There's little veering from this template. Songs layer and build and eventually burst open. Moreno was clearly the perfect choice for this effort. His clean singing has the ability to convey vulnerability and brooding and yearning (some may say whining) in a way that few in the genre can.

Crisply produced, *Palms* is New Age metal for sensitive types — and I mean that in the best way possible. (Ipecac Recordings)

— *Kathleen Richards*

Palms plays Slim's (333 11th St., San Francisco) on Saturday, July 13, 9 p.m., $18. SlimsPresents.com

The Mantles

Long Enough to Leave

Michael Olivares and Virginia Weatherby started The Mantles in 2007 on a whim. Since then, the band has retained its casualness and has never been in a hurry to release new material. This relaxed pace has allowed The Mantles to focus on their best songs, which is probably why *Long Enough to Leave*, their second album in six years, sounds so complete.

Their eponymous debut elicited comparisons to Eighties New Zealand pop, the paisley underground, and other varieties of idiosyncratic pop from the era, with nods to garage as well. Every reference is apt. And yet The Mantles' influences are so fragmented that it makes citing them arbitrary — the band is clearly more than the sum of its record collection. It's far better to simply enjoy the minimal melancholy of "Don't Cross Town" and feel the track swell, collapse, and neatly resolve.

Olivares' wavering voice unifies the album. His high notes quiver and nearly crack; he rushes phrases to make the words fit; he relishes in the vulnerability of his untrained voice. The lattice work of acoustic and electric guitars also create a sturdy foundation, like the choppy riff punctuating each line of "Brown Balloon." On "More That I Pay," a mariachi melody enters near the end, somehow resting uneasily in the mix like a student practicing scales in the next room, but then mingles with Olivares' refrain. The moment is hypnotic and unnerving at once. (Slumberland)

— *Sam Lefebvre*

Surfer Blood

Pythons

Suffice it to say a lot has changed for Surfer Blood since the Florida four-piece's widely praised 2009 debut, *Astro Coast*. There was the sudden fame that record brought, of course, and the consequent deal with Warner Bros. and well-received tour. More recently, there was lead singer JP Pitts' arrest for domestic battery — the charges were eventually dropped, but the incident made music blog headlines and seemed, at the time, to threaten the group's future — and the protracted recording and release process for the aforementioned major label debut, *Pythons*, which arrived earlier this month, more than four years since *Astro*. Perhaps unsurprisingly, there's a world-weariness to the record, a heaviness that certainly still places Surfer Blood on the boppier end of the spectrum, but is nonetheless hard to shake. The themes are darker, the lyrics more desperate, the instruments muddier; if *Astro Coast* dwelled in the sun, *Pythons* is more like the shadow.

Make no mistake: Surfer Blood is still expert at churning out surf-inflected, hook-heavy, guitar-driven power-pop in the vein of Pavement, Pixies, and especially early Weezer. In fact, *Pythons* is almost hard to listen to in one sitting — not because it's bad, but because it's just unrelenting: all those major keys and big pop song structures delivering the same equivalent of a sugar headache. But beneath all that, the lyrics contend almost exclusively with bigger, scarier, darker themes than ever before, and when Pitts belts/begs a lyric like *If I fall apart, would you stay?* it carries significant — and welcome — emotional heft, despite or more likely because it's laid over a perfect pop-song squall. Change, as they say, is good. (Warner Bros.)

— *Ellen Cushing*

LOCAL LICKS

BY [illegible]

George Brooks, Kala Ramnath, & Gwyneth Wentink

Elements

East Bay saxophonist George Brooks has long incorporated global influences into American jazz, and for his latest project, he enlists Indian violinist Kala Ramnath and Dutch harpist Gwyneth Wentink. The eight compositions on *Elements* bear motifs of the easy listening world-music aesthetic, but they also exhibit a spirit of experimentalism — with stirring results. "*Restless*" contrasts melancholy piano and harp with anxious violin. Ramnath's violin also lends a dark foreboding feel to "Southern Bird," while Wentink's playing shifts between gently plucking and fiercely clawing. (self-released)

At Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on Thursday, June 20, 8 p.m., $24.50-$28.50. TheFreight.org

Painted Palms

Nothing Lasts Long

Psych-pop duo Painted Palms started as an Internet project but quickly gained traction after Secretly Canadian re-released its debut EP *Canopy*. Its self-released follow-up, *Nothing Lasts Long*, veers away from the Passion Pit and STRFKR sound and instead revels in carefree retro rock: reverb-heavy guitar, tripped-out harmonies, lighter, more natural percussion, and nods to The Beatles in their drug-fueled period. *Nothing Lasts Long* was apparently written for fun — and it's just as fun to listen to. (self-released)

At Phono del Sol (Potrero del Sol Park, San Francisco) on Saturday, July 13, 11:30 a.m., $20-$25. PhonoDelSol.com

Futurebrite

Futurebrite Part 1

Singer/multi-instrumentalist Karen Kanan Correa and electronic producer Josh Grant combined their respective talents to form Futurebrite. Their debut, *Futurebrite Part 1*, is the first of three upcoming records, and it reflects the indie and electro house influences of both artists. "I Go Where You Go" and "Hunt Accords" are sexy, urgent pop songs, recalling Santigold and Icona Pop. The duo's most unique track, "Please," pairs tribal beats and dark synths with a rapid-fire rap. (self-released) ●

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[illegible] [illegible] with guest [illegible] singers. The Alley. 9 p.m., free

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[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Eli's Mile High Club. 7 p.m. $5

[illegible] happy hour punk piano. [illegible]. 5 p.m. free

Karl Evangelista Trio w/ Flapper Dan. Awaken Cafe. 7 p.m. $7

[illegible] [illegible]. 10 p.m. free

The [illegible] w/ The [illegible]. The Uptown. 9 p.m. $10-$18

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YG w/ [illegible]. The Oakland Fox. 9 p.m. $25-$45

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

[illegible] Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $18.50-$20.50

[illegible] w/ The [illegible]. University of California Botanical Garden. 5:30 p.m. $18 adult, $12 [illegible], $6 youth

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible]. 8 & 10 p.m. $25

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera performing Offenbach's "The Tales of Hoffmann" w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. War Memorial Opera House. 7:30 p.m. $25-$338

SF Symphony performing Stravinsky [illegible] Concerto in D Major and The Rite of Spring. Davies Symphony Hall. 2 p.m. $25-$220

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Gregory Porter SFJAZZ Center. 8 p.m. $25-$45

Rock & Pop

[illegible] [illegible]. 9:30 p.m. $7-$10

[illegible] w/ Johnny Craig. Great American Music Hall. 8 p.m. $13

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8:30 p.m. $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible]. 9 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Regency Ballroom. 7 p.m. $39.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Independent. 8 p.m. $15

[illegible] [illegible] Lounge. 8 p.m. $10-$12

[illegible] [illegible]. 8 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible]. Hotel Utah. 8 p.m. $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]

9 p.m. $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. Hill. 9 p.m. $10

Ugly Heroes w/ [illegible]. Cafe du Nord. 8:30 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Mezzanine. 9 p.m. $12-$15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

[illegible] w/ Larry Coryell and [illegible]. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 p.m. $26-$28

FRIDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible]. Starry Plough. 8 p.m. $7-$12

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jessy J Yoshi's Oakland. 8 p.m. $27

[illegible] Jazz Trio [illegible]. 8:30 p.m. free

Lloyd Gregory [illegible] Gallery. 8:30 p.m. $15

[illegible] dinner jazz with guest vocal singers. The Alley. 8 p.m. free

[illegible] Duende. 9:30 p.m. $12

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 p.m. $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse. 8 p.m. $18.50-$22.50

George Larson Project [illegible]. 8 p.m. free

The [illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Night Light. 8 p.m. $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Young Ides, and [illegible]. 924 Gilman. 7 p.m. $8

[illegible] [illegible]. 10 p.m. $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Uptown. 9 p.m. $12

[illegible] [illegible]. 7 p.m. $21

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Eli's Mile High Club. 6 p.m. $5

Soul, Rock R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible]. 9 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Oakland Fox. 8 p.m. $25-$45

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Paramount Theatre. 7:30 p.m., $44.75-$87.75

Father John Misty plays The Fillmore on 6/21

Emma Garr

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

[illegible] Ashkenaz. 8:30 p.m. $13, $ [illegible]

Latin Explosion Club 21. 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe. 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] & [illegible] Zydeco [illegible] [illegible] Hall. 8 p.m. $18

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] [illegible]. 8 & 10 p.m. $20

[illegible] [illegible]. 8 p.m. [illegible], free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera Presents Mozart's Così Fan Tutte w/ [illegible]. War Memorial Opera House. 8 p.m. $30-$271

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] Top of the Mark. 9 p.m. 12:30 a.m. $10

The Third Quarter [illegible]. 8:30 p.m. free

[illegible] SFJAZZ Center. 8 & 10 p.m. $25-$60

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 p.m. $8

[illegible] solo rock piano. [illegible]. 6 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8:30 p.m. $12

Father John Misty w/ [illegible]. The Fillmore. 8 p.m. $21

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 p.m. $7-$10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and The [illegible]. The Chapel. 8 p.m. $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Great American Music Hall. 8 p.m. $20

[illegible] w/ The [illegible] and The [illegible]. Hotel Utah. 9 p.m. $8-$10

The [illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible] of the Hill. 8:30 p.m. $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. [illegible]. 8:30 p.m. $18-$20

The [illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Independent. 8 p.m. $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Cafe du Nord. 8 p.m. $15-$20

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ The [illegible]. [illegible]. 9:30 p.m. $10-$18

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Yoshi's San Francisco. 8 & 10 p.m. $34-$37

SATURDAY 22

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible]. 8:30

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DOCTOR KRAPULA

WED 6/19
MARK EITZEL
CARLETTA SUE KAY, WILL SPRETT (THE MUMLERS)

THU 6/20 6PM
D PRYDE

THU 6/20 10PM
JAY ANT

FRI 6/21
HANDS

SUN 6/23
MONSTER RALLY

TUE 6/25
TYLER BRYANT & THE SHAKEDOWN
GIRLS & BOYS

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TOO SHORT
CMG FT. DJ DEEANDROID, SYAR DALI, STEELO (DJ SET)

WEDNESDAY 6/19
PETER CASE

THURSDAY 6/20
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THURSDAY 6/27
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FRIDAY 6/28
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PICKS

Ivan Pinto

Tramaine Hawkins

Unlike some gospel singers who dazzle audiences with complex curlicues and leaps of register, Tramaine Hawkins cuts straight to the core of her Christian roles with the rich quality and sheer strength of her mezzo-soprano pipes, an urgency in her delivery, and clarity in her enunciation. Born in San Francisco and raised in Berkeley, Hawkins made her initial mark with a female group called The Heavenly Tones, which was renamed Little Sister after Hawkins dropped out to sing gospel with Edwin Hawkins' Northern California State Youth Choir of "Oh Happy Day" renown. She went on to become the star soloist of her then-husband Walter Hawkins' Love Center Choir and a gospel diva in her own right. Now living in Sacramento, Hawkins will make a rare Bay Area appearance at her aunt Ernestine Cleveland Reems' Center of Hope Community Church (8411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland) with Priesthood Nation and Derrick Hall & Company. — *Lee Hildebrand*

Friday, June 21, 7 p.m., $15, $20. ReidsRecords.com

Tom Tom Magazine Showcase

Carla Azar, Sara Lund, Sheila E. What do they have in common? They're all powerhouse drummers (for, among others, Autolux, Unwound, and Prince, respectively), and they also happen to be women. Yet they haven't received nearly the level of acclaim that their male counterparts have because despite their growing presence, female drummers are still largely considered an anomaly. *Tom Tom Magazine* aims to change that. The Brooklyn-based publication, which comes out four times a year, profiles various female drummers and includes practical things like stretching exercises, tablature, and gear reviews. But it needs help. The magazine, along with co-organizers Mint on Creek Oakland, will hold a fundraiser at The Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) featuring local bands with female drummers, including the garage-punk duo Dark Beach, lo-fi indie-poppers Upside Downs, tween twosome Bam!Bam!, and Silver Shadows, which describes itself as "hardcore rose wave." If drumming isn't your thing, there will also be a "nail art fundraiser." (Full disclosure: *The Express* is co-presenting the event.) — *Kathleen Richards*

Saturday, June 22, 9 p.m., $7. UptownNightclub.com

Tramaine Hawkins

The Spiral Electric

San Francisco's The Spiral Electric is a psych rock group with an acid-drenched sound that creeps and crawls into the recesses of your mind where it stays with you, kinda like those fuzzy collage memories of when shit got weird. Much like the band's predecessors The Brian Jonestown Massacre, The Spiral Electric's songs are hypnotic and build into a crescendo of sound. Lead vocalist Clay Andrews lends the band a distinct sound with his strong, clear voice and impressive range, anchored by synths, electric guitar riffs, and steady drumming. It manages to be thought-provoking, too. For example, "A Better Way" is a reverberating jam that poses vulnerable questions: *Is there a better way?/Am I the only one?* The complexities of the band's sound deserve to be heard live, so go get lost in it at The Stork Club (2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). With Deep Space, Max Paine and The Groovies, Electric Magpie, and DJ Al Lover. — *Madeleine Key*

Sunday, June 23, 9 p.m., $5. StorkClubOakland.com

The Spiral Electric

C&C

p.m. $3

Jazz @ Joy Taste of Joy. 5:30 p.m., free

Jonathan Poretz The Sound Room, 8 p.m., $25

[illegible] Saturday [illegible] Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] Joy of Jazz Caffe Trieste, 7:30 p.m., free

[illegible] dinner jam with guest [illegible] singers. The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Dark Beach, The [illegible] 9 p.m. $TBA

[illegible] [illegible] 8 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible] Black. Starry Plough, 8 p.m., $9, $12-$15

[illegible] w/ Pigs and [illegible] Mile High Club, 7 p.m. $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Anne [illegible] Actual Cafe, 7 p.m., free

Karla Bonoff Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $34.50, $38.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Cafe, 7 p.m., $7

She & Him Greek Theatre, 7 p.m., $45

Warped Tour w/ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] Lounge, 8 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

All Night [illegible] milonga class at 9:30 p.m., then party till dawn. The Beat: The Berkeley Performing Arts, 10:30 p.m., $16 includes class, $10 for just milonga

[illegible] [illegible] Music, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] Subterranean Arthouse, 7 p.m., $10-$20

[illegible] Awaken Cafe, 9:30 p.m., $12 adv. and [illegible] tickets, $15 day of

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

The [illegible] Brothers [illegible] Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $20

[illegible] [illegible], 8-11 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] with [illegible], Caffe Trieste, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free

The [illegible] The Chapel, 10 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera performing Adams' "The Gospel of Mary Magdalene" w/ [illegible] [illegible], conducted by Michael [illegible] War Memorial Opera House, 8 p.m.

SF Symphony performing Stravinsky, [illegible] The Rite of Spring w/ The [illegible] Ensemble; conducted by [illegible] Davies Symphony Hall, 4 p.m. $15-$150

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] SFJAZZ Center, 8 p.m., $30-$110

Oakland [illegible] Gospel [illegible] SFJAZZ Center, 9:30, 11 p.m. & 12:30 p.m., $30-$35

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and the [illegible] Symphony, Hungry [illegible] and DJ [illegible], 9 p.m., $14

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 8 p.m., $18, $20

[illegible] [illegible] San Francisco, 8 p.m., $33

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Bar & Grill, 8:30 p.m., $5

[illegible] [illegible] & Lounge [illegible] Hall, 8 p.m., $22, $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible], Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $6

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and The [illegible], [illegible] House, 7 p.m., $5

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and The [illegible] Things, [illegible] Room, 9:30 p.m., $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $18, $25

The [illegible] w/ The [illegible] and [illegible], Thee Parkside, 2 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ The [illegible] and The [illegible], Hemlock, 9 p.m., $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and The [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 9:30 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Young Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 p.m., $22

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $13, $15

SUNDAY 23

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ The Celtic Conspiracy, Starry Plough, 4 p.m., free

[illegible] with [illegible], Jupiter, 5 p.m., free

Sunday Morning [illegible] with [illegible], Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

The "In the [illegible]" Trio w/ [illegible], [illegible] and Johnny [illegible], St. [illegible], 4 p.m., $10

Jazz and R&B Night [illegible], 9 p.m., free

Sunday [illegible] Quartet [illegible] 8 p.m., $20

John [illegible] Actual Cafe, 5 p.m., free

Occidental [illegible] [illegible], 4:30 p.m., $10

The [illegible] Trio [illegible] Lounge, 9:30 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Black Flag w/ Good for You, [illegible] Metro Operahouse, 7 p.m., $25

Hugh [illegible] & Larry [illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 6 & 8 p.m., $24, $29

Laurel [illegible] [illegible], [illegible], 9 a.m., free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and AC Way, Mile High Club, 7 p.m., $5

[illegible] Awaken Cafe, 4 p.m., $5

Spiral Electric w/ Deep Space, Max Paine and the Groovies, Electric Magpie, and DJ Al Lover. Stork Club, 7 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ The Central Valley Boys, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50, $28.50

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Sundays in Oakland Chicago-style "steppin" w/ dance [illegible] at 2 p.m., [illegible] Carnival, 2-7 p.m., $5 before 4 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] Afro-Cuban rumba percussion & dance party. Cafe Valparaiso, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Bandits Opera Amnesia, 7 p.m., $5-$10

The [illegible] Thee Parkside, 4 p.m., free

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish Tavern, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] Bandits, 8 p.m., free

[illegible] [illegible] Blues, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $15

Classical & Opera

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John of Oakland w/ Oakland Peterson, Gerald Deaney, Alicia Costa, Christian Van Horn, conducted by Patrick Fournillier. Bas Memorial Event House, 2 p.m. $30-$75
SF Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 2 p.m., $30

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Catherine Session Yoshi's San Francisco, 9:30 p.m. $18, $22
Gerald Clayton Trio w/ Kendrick Scott Oracle. SFJAZZ Center, 8 p.m., $25
Boom Boom Boom Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $24

Rock & Pop

Amy LaVere w/ Esposito Corps, Vocal Mob. 9 p.m., $10
Boom Boom Motorcycle Club w/ DBV Mets, Tamaryn, The She's, Shela. 8 p.m. $8
Hot Hocker The Chapel, 8 p.m. $12, $15
Kelly Anne White w/ Big Eagle and The Untamed Hearts. Make-Out Room, 7:30 p.m., free
Session Farm w/ February Zero and Pinqueira. The Boom Bottom of the Hill. 9 p.m., $8
Bold Hell w/ We Will at Lions and Devon Ma-Clive. Sd Moore Sabel House, 8 p.m. $9
Patty Griffin The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $35
Tombless w/ Mission and Animal Super Species. Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m. $6
& Oakland Sermon w/ The Postmen and Sun Goat. Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Boom Fried Soul Dance Party Boom Boom Room. 9:30 p.m., free

MONDAY 24

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Matt Oakland Trio Sombre, 8 p.m. $10
Oakland Oakland Jazz Society The Lounge. 8 p.m. $TBA

Rock & Pop

Boys & Girls Room Oakland Boom Session Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $50, $65-$8 & younger

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

La Jazz Hot Il Colonial, 7 p.m. free
Mike Simon, The Session Oakland & Boom 7:30 p.m. $12

Rock & Pop

Boom Boom Gospel of Music Boom Radio cases Café du Nord, 7:30 p.m. $13-$20
The End Oakland Amnesia, 5 p.m. $TBA

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Session 3020 w/ Juicy J, Blackalicious, Angel Haze and 3Hz, Slim's, 6 p.m. RSVP

TUESDAY 25

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Free Tuesdays Jazz Series rotating guests every other week. Boom Bissett, 8 p.m., free
Randy Harry Trio Café Van Kleef 7:30-9:30 p.m. free
Invergance Jazz Francisco Yoshi's Session 8 p.m., $18-$20
Bar Music Radio jazz with guest Session singers. The Alley, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Jazz Savoy & Boom Lago Ashkenaz, & 9 p.m. $12
The Memories w/ Comstam, Boom!, and Boone and the Periodic Glub Club & p.m. $5
Oakland Ant w/ It Is Pain in my Face and Real Magic. The Night Light 9 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Innerspace upear 9 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

Layin' Low The Lounge 10 p.m. $TBA

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

John Hamm Boom Biscuits & Boom 8 & 10 p.m. $25
Song Session Plough and Stars, 9 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera performing Adamo's "The Gospel of Mary Magdalene" w/ Boom Cooke, Boom Kanyon, William Burden, Nathan Gunn, conducted by Bicknell. War Oakland Opera House, 8 p.m., $25-$385

Experimental & Avant Garde

F*ck Rock w/ The Neuroelastic Orchestra and Havelcraft. Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $5
Songs and Sonic Journeys with Kaoi Forest Yoga Kula, 9:30 p.m., $11-$15
Tuesday Residency Series Amnesia, 6:30 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Boo and Alru Morriana w/ Mary O'Kelly & The Old Soul Oakland and Radio Quattro.

VENUE DIRECTORY

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High Forest Station 1303 High St., Alameda, 510-985-0048
Island Paradise Club 1450 Oakland St. Alameda, 510-863-3075
Ivy Room 860 San Pablo Ave. Albany, 510-526-5888
Innerspace 2087 Addison St., Berkeley 510-845-5313
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley 510-848-0237
John Patrick s 1813 Park St. Alameda 510-522-5695
Jazz s Towne & Tea Gazett 1223 Park St. Alameda 510-865-2381
Jupiter 2181 Oakland Ave. Berkeley, 510-843-8217
Session s Oakland 522 2nd St., Oakland 510-444-5401
Kingman s Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-465-5464
La Peña Oakland Center 3105 Oakland Ave. Berkeley 510-849-2568
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Mills College 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-430-2259
Oakland Session 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2080
New Autonomy City 1403 Oakland St. Oakland, 510-238-0300
The New Parish 579 18th St. Oakland, 510-444-7474
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C&C

[illegible] Hotel Utah, 8 p.m., $8

Big Business w/ Pins of Light and Greyhaven, Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $12

Blue Blue Ravens of [illegible] Cafe du Nord, 7:30 p.m., $12-$20

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Picture Atlantic, and [illegible], The Palace, 9 p.m. $10

Harry and the [illegible] Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Yard Alive and Alliance, The Regency Ballroom, 7:30 p.m. $17-$30

[illegible] w/ Bones of Isaac and Memory's Autumn, [illegible], 8:30 p.m. $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible], ARC, and [illegible], 50 Mason Social House, 9 p.m. $TBA

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], and [illegible], The Arkentile, 9:30 p.m., $8

So Many Wizards w/ Local Hero and [illegible] & the Lesbians, Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $10-$12

Tyler [illegible] & the Shakedown w/ [illegible] Boys, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $13, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

The Bell Boys Boom Boom Room, 9 p.m., $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] San Francisco, 8 p.m. $??

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 p.m. $TBA

WEDNESDAY 26

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] & the [illegible] Rooster's Roadhouse, 8:17 p.m., free

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ Joe Bear [illegible] Group, [illegible] Cafe, 8 p.m. free

[illegible] Jazz All-Stars Yoshi's [illegible], 8 p.m. $10

[illegible] dinner jazz with guest [illegible] singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Alice Stuart & the Formerlys w/ [illegible] & [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $17.50, $20.50

[illegible] & [illegible] w/ Undertow and the Believers and Benjamin Brown, Blue Ox, 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] Jupiter 8 p.m. free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Dueside, 9 p.m. $10

[illegible] [illegible] High Club, 7 p.m. $6

The [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m. $12

Martina McBride Wente Vineyards, Aug 28-Sep 17, 8:15 p.m. $49-$109

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Oaksdelic live music Wednesdays, The Layover, 10 p.m., $TBA

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Caribbean Night with Reggae [illegible] and DJ [illegible], Dorsey's Locker, 11 p.m. free

Flamenco Flamenco with singer Roberto Zamora, guitarist David McLean, and dancers [illegible] Rodriguez and Stephanie Nevarez, [illegible], 8 p.m., $7

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] w/ The Deadly Operators, 50 Mason Social House, 9 p.m. $8

[illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m. $15

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera Presents Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* w/ Ellie Dehn, [illegible], [illegible], Francesco [illegible], Philippe Sly, and [illegible], conducted by [illegible], War Memorial Opera House, 7:30 p.m. $30-$271

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible] with Gauthier and Eric Garland's Jazz Sessions, Amnesia, 7 p.m. free

[illegible] playing smooth jazz on the patio, Top of the Mark, 8:30-11:30 p.m. $5

Rock & Pop

Austra w/ [illegible] Mouth, The Independent, 8 p.m. $20

[illegible] & [illegible] Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $5

Blue Blue Ravens of [illegible] Cafe Du Nord, 7:30 p.m. $12-$20

[illegible] w/ M.R. Smith, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $8

[illegible] w/ Justin Walker, The Chapel, 8 p.m. $13, $15

Quicksand w/ [illegible], High On Fire, Saviours, and Hot Lunch, Slim's, 8 p.m. $TBA

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Pleasure Gallows, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m. $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The [illegible], [illegible] 9 p.m. $5

[illegible] w/ Great Apes, The Wild and [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $8

The Spyrals w/ [illegible] Space, [illegible] People, Al Lover, Max Pain, and DJ [illegible], Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m. $7

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m. $8-$12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] Boom Boom Room, 10:30 p.m., $10, $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

[illegible] & [illegible] Fight w/ DJ [illegible] & special guests, [illegible], 10 p.m. $8 ●

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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Boom Boom Room 1601 Fillmore St., 415-673-8000
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Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Cafe International 508 Haight St., 415-552-7390
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Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
[illegible] 2700 16th St., 415-437-0040
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788
The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-646-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St. 415-923-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400
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[illegible] 399 9th St. 415-863-0073
Sub/Mission Gallery 2183 Mission St. 415-255-7227
SupperClub 657 Harrison St. 415-348-0900
Swig Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292
[illegible] 540 Howard St., 415-978-9942
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330
Top of the Mark [illegible] St., 415-616-6916
[illegible] [illegible] St., 415-986-8800
[illegible] Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-788-0228
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 20

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

FRIDAY 21

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

SATURDAY 22

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

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SUNDAY 23

EAST BAY

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SAN FRANCISCO

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MONDAY 24

EAST BAY

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SAN FRANCISCO

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TUESDAY 25

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY 26

EAST BAY

[illegible]

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible]

PICK

Mossmoss

San Francisco-based, Scottish-born producer Mossmoss (né Mattie Bowen) spins deep house sets that are inspired by the hard-driving techno of Detroit and Chicago as well as the minimal electro and ambient music of Europe. He was chosen to be the first resident DJ of the popular monthly parties As You Like It, which gave him the opportunity to play at large clubs and unusual venues like Golden Gate Park. When Mossmoss shared a bill with Berlin-based producer Scuba at Public Works last year, his opening set of dark atmospheric beats captivated the audience in the massive main room. He'll surely tailor his set when he headlines Deep East at Lounge 3411 (3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland), which boasts an excellent sound system for a small neighborhood bar. Get there early as word about Deep East — a weekly party in East Oakland that's gained a devoted following since starting earlier this year — is spreading fast; organizer and resident DJ Nasko reports that the party is now booking acts three months in advance. With M.O.D. and Nasko. — *Whitney Phaneuf*

Thursday, June 20, 9 p.m., free. Lounge3411.com

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SAVAGE LOVE

MAYONNAISE

Plus a gay stereotype and a tentative devotee

By Dan Savage

I'm a straight guy in my early thirties with an amazing girlfriend of two years. A few months ago, I felt open enough to share my taboo fantasy: father/daughter incest. My GF, to my delight, not only understands the fantasy but enjoys participating in it! Quickly: I have ZERO interest in this kind of thing actually happening. I understand the kind of damage that sexual abuse can do and has done to many, many women, and I would never pursue something like this in real life. Now the problem: We've added the "wrinkle" of me talking to another man on the phone while my GF fellates me. The man — a stranger, someone we found online — has been led to believe that I am being fellated by my daughter while we speak. Of course, he can hear the noises associated with said activity while he and I are talking. We do not in any way lead these guys to believe that they have a chance to meet us. We want to enjoy our sexual fantasies, but we worry that we could be inadvertently encouraging someone to make their fantasies a reality. Any advice?

No Acronym Seems To Yodel

The incest fetishists you meet in chat rooms and get on the phone? For all they know, you could be alone in a room stirring a jar of mayonnaise with a slotted spoon. And for all you know, NASTY, the incest fetishists you're meeting in chat rooms could be police officers looking to bust men who are actually raping their daughters. Just sayin'.

As for your problem, NASTY, most people with incest fantasies insist that they're not turned on by the idea of having sex with their actual parents, siblings, or children. Incest scenarios turn them on abstractly, but they have ZERO interest in their own siblings or parents or children specifically. That can't be true for all incest fetishists — statistically speaking — but any incest fetishists who're turned on by the thought of actually fucking their sibs/parents/children would have a motive and/or the good sense to lie.

But let's set your specific fantasy aside for the moment — which is an upsetting one for most people to contemplate (because ick), particularly those who were sexually abused by family members (because rape) — and focus on the underlying question: Does exploring something taboo through fantasy make someone likelier to go out and do that thing in real life?

The evidence we've got about porn points to no.

"Perhaps the most serious accusation against pornography is that it incites sexual aggression," Melinda Wenner Moyer wrote in the July 2011 issue of *Scientific American* ("The Sunny Side of Smut"). "But not only do rape statistics suggest otherwise, some experts believe the consumption of pornography may actually reduce the desire to rape by offering a safe, private outlet for deviant sexual desires."

What you're producing for the men you get on the phone is a kind of pornography, NASTY, and Moyer demonstrates that the wider availability of internet pornography has correlated strongly with falling rates of sexual violence — and incest between an adult and a minor is sexual violence.

"Within the US, the states with the least internet access between 1980 and 2000 — and therefore the least access to internet pornography — experienced a 53 percent increase in rape incidence, whereas the states with the most access experienced a 27 percent drop in the number of reported rapes, according to a paper published in 2006 by Anthony D'Amato, a law professor at Northwestern University," Moyer writes. "It is important to note that these associations are just that — associations. They do not prove that pornography is the cause of the observed crime reductions. Nevertheless, the trends just don't fit with the theory that rape and sexual assault are in part influenced by pornography. [Professor Christopher J.] Ferguson [of Texas A&M] explains: 'At this point, I think we can say the evidence just isn't there, and it is time to retire this belief.'"

The complicating factor here, of course, is that you're leading these men to believe that you're actually doing it, i.e., the noises they're hearing are your daughter blowing you and not you stirring a jar of mayo. So will the men you talk to want to rape their daughters in real life because you've led them to believe that you're raping your daughter? Hard to say ... and even harder to get data on. But the people doing taboo shit in porn are actually doing it, and the data suggests that watching others do it, i.e., living vicariously through porn performers (who are sometimes faking it, but still), leads to less people acting on taboo desires in real life, not more.

I am a 23-year-old female devotee of disabled men. I have a strong desire to be with men with all types of disabilities, but I mostly gravitate toward severe CP and quadriplegics. But my passions in life involve travel, sports, my bike, camping, overseas disaster aid, and a whole load of other things that are more either difficult or impossible when you can't walk. I have always dated able-bodied men as a result. I would feel guilty fucking a disabled guy — I would see an "expiration date" on our relationship. Would it be wrong for me to seek out disabled guys just for sex? I don't feel guilt for my sexuality being what it is, but I do feel guilty when I think about using disabled men for sex.

Some Chick Who Likes Wheels

Maybe you should let disabled men decide for themselves if they want to be used for sex. Some won't mind, SCWLW. Just as many gay guys don't mind being used for sex by bisexual and/or closeted guys who aren't interested in dating other men, just fucking them. Disabled adults are adults, and they're free to make their own choices. So long as they're making informed choices — so long as you're not misleading anyone to get into his pants and/or up on his wheels — you're not doing anything wrong. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage
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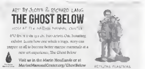
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